

September  
1984

# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

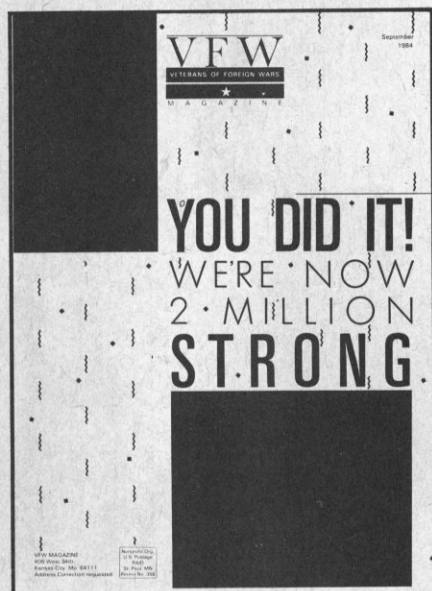
MAGAZINE

YOU DID IT!  
WE'RE NOW  
2 MILLION  
STRONG.

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**Cover**

For the first time in its 85-year history, the Veterans of Foreign Wars has reached the 2 million mark in membership. As of July 31, the total was 2,000,149. Congratulatory messages poured in to Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr. President Reagan sent a telegram expressing his pleasure. An account of this milestone in VFW history appears on page 4. Steve Keetle's cover design captures the mood of elation the news of this increase engendered.



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**FEATURES**

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## MEDICAL FILE

concise up-to-date information  
on effective treatment of  
common medical problems

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## M a i l c a l l

### Liked Seabees

Thanks for the interesting article about the Seabees in the May issue. We had just returned from a visit with our son who serves in the Seabees and was at home port at Port Hueneme and now is deployed in Europe. We recognized the cover picture immediately. The Port Hueneme Museum has a model of this memorial at its entrance. Many of the names and events in the article were familiar to us since we spent two days in the museum. We spent several more days touring the area and Port Hueneme and thoroughly enjoyed every minute. — *A.I. Christopherson, Commander, Post 10543, Oconto Falls, Wis.*

### Author Wants Help

To complete a book about World War II in the Pacific, I would like to contact veterans who saw a USO troupe's performance of "Oklahoma" on Cebu, Mindoro, Mindanao, Leyte, Luzon, Panay, Talawan or Hollandia, New Guinea, from March to September, 1945. — *Valbor Kirsten, PO Box 20174, Columbus Circle Sta., New York, N.Y., 10023*

### Is He Oldest?

At 88, I think I am the oldest living Past Department Commander and oldest in years of VFW Membership. I was Commander of the Department of Missouri in 1924 and would like to hear from any Past Department Commanders who are older. — *Carl W. Luyties, Mari de Villa, 13900 Clayton Road, Manchester, Mo., 63011*

### Picture Credits

Two pictures used with "Its Regiments Never Fought" (February) should have been credited to the U.S. Army Museum, Presidio of Monterrey. They were of the two officers wearing cavalry breeches and the tent city. — *Robert B. Wentworth, 30 Elmwood Avenue, South Braintree, Mass., 02184.*

In the cutlines of the picture of Big Ten Adjutants-Quartermasters in the June issue, Iowa's Robert Waterbury was incorrectly identified as Woodbury. Apologies to Comrade Waterbury.



# VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU  
OF CIRCULATION

(ISSN 0161-8598)



# YOU DID IT 2 MILLION

**W**ith the announcement by Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr., that the Veterans of Foreign Wars had reached 2 million in membership, President Ronald Reagan wired his congratulations and praised the organization for upholding values that "have made our nation great."

The exact figure on July 31, final day of the 1983-84 membership campaign, was 2,000,149, the membership total the VFW will strive to outstrip in 1984-85. This is the highest figure ever recorded by the VFW in its 85-year history.

In making this announcement, Olson praised the hard work carried out by individual VFW members who exerted themselves so diligently in achieving this long-sought goal.

"Reaching this historic milestone represents an increase of more than 40,000 members for 1983-84 and is a real tribute to the grassroots members in our nearly 10,000 Posts worldwide," Olson said.

"There was also a surge of Vietnam veterans joining our organization," he continued. "They recognized the support the VFW has given specific issues concerning them—such as Agent Orange.

"This marks the 29th consecutive year of membership gain, a remarkable record for any organization."

Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr., credited the gain to "hard work by our volunteer members, a national surge in patriotism, concern over the future of veterans' entitlements and the organization's wide variety of service programs carried out across the nation."

"You did it," added Olson, congratulating each member whose support was

essential in reaching the 2 million goal.

Joining in the elation as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief was Billy Ray Cameron, who said:

"This makes my year, and now we can go forward toward 2.5 million and 3 million while strengthening our programs and effectiveness as a total service organization."

In addition to reaching the 2 million mark, the VFW in the past year has added more than 200 new Posts, an achievement that figured heavily in accomplishing the membership objective.

Not only did the VFW add to its rolls in 1983-84, but its Ladies Auxiliary reached 700,413.

Congratulations poured into National Headquarters after the announcement.

Perhaps the most treasured was that from President Reagan, whose telegram is reproduced here.

He wired the Commander-in-Chief at National Headquarters:

"I am pleased and honored to salute the

  
western union

## Telegram

I AM PLEASED AND HONORED TO SALUTE THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AS YOU ENLIST YOUR TWO MILLIONTH MEMBER. FOR 85 YEARS YOU HAVE STOOD UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THE VALUES WHICH HAVE MADE OUR REPUBLIC GREAT -- PATRIOTISM, COURAGE, INTEGRITY, AND LOYALTY TO OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN ANY SUMMER SOLDIERS OR SUNSHINE PATRIOTS IN YOUR RANKS. IN TIMES OF WAR OR CONFLICT, YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL OF DUTY WITH HONOR AND DISTINCTION. AND IN PEACETIME, YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO SERVE OUR NATION WELL THROUGH PROGRAMS WHICH REMIND US OF AMERICA'S UNIQUE HISTORY AND PRECIOUS LIBERTIES. AS YOU CELEBRATE THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE, NANCY AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO A STRONG AMERICA AND FOR YOUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO ENSURE WORLD PEACE. GOD BLESS YOU.

RONALD REAGAN

continued on page 6



continued from page 4

Veterans of Foreign Wars as you enlist your two millionth member. For 85 years you have stood united in support of the values which have made our Republic great—patriotism, courage, integrity and loyalty to our system of government. There have never been any summer soldiers or sunshine patriots in your ranks. In times of war or conflict, you have answered the call of duty with honor and distinction. And in peacetime, you have continued to serve our nation well through programs which remind us of America's unique history and precious liberties. As you celebrate this important milestone, Nancy and I thank you for your commitment to a strong America and for your ongoing efforts to ensure world peace. God Bless you."

VA Administrator Harry N. Walters wrote:

"On the occasion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars achieving the two million mark in its membership, I offer my congratulations.

"Over the past 85 years, the VFW has served our Nation and its veterans with aplomb. Today's achievement is a reflection of that past performance and sends a clear message to all Americans of what can be achieved by placing patriotism, allegiance and fidelity above all else.

"The voice of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has never been one silent on issues important to all Americans; two million members will assure the open dialogue on these issues is never muted. 'America is #1, Thanks to Our Veterans'—the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars can take great pride in its contribution toward our Nation's recognition of this fact."

Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Rep. G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), sent his congratulations to Commander-in-Chief Olson:

"In my remarks at the 1983 VFW National Convention, I offered my praise for your commendable efforts in increasing your membership. Considering that you now have more members than Detroit, Houston or Philadelphia have citizens, I believe an even heartier 'Congratulations' is warranted.

"When an organization can increase its membership for 29 consecutive years and attract more than 2 million to its rolls, a lot is said about the quality of its services and the importance of its mission.

"You have my best wishes for a successful 85th National Convention and my applause for your efforts in behalf of all veterans. Here's to your 30th consecutive year of increased membership."

Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Sen. Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.), expressed his pleasure at the VFW achievement in a letter to Olson:

"On this special occasion, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for attaining the long-sought goal of 2 million members. This event is certainly a notable achievement and one in which your fine organization can take great pride.

"Since 1899, the VFW has distinguished itself as an effective spokesman for our nation's veterans. Through the years, your organization has provided outstanding service to its members and has proven to be an excellent advocate for veterans and I wish to commend your organization for its dedicated service.

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have had the honor of working closely with the very capable representatives of the VFW. I am proud of this association and I look forward to continuing the relationship in the years to come.

"Again, I congratulate your organization on the attainment of this important milestone and I extend every wish for continued success in the future."

Sen. Alan Cranston (Calif.) sent his congratulations to Commander-in-Chief Olson. He is ranking minority member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"The VFW has long been a most effective advocate for those whose service and sacrifice have kept this Nation free, strong and secure.

"Your great organization has been instrumental in shaping national policies regarding veterans and in establishing and protecting a tremendous array of benefits and services to meet the needs of those who answered the call and their survivors.

"At the same time, on the person-to-person level, your national program of service to individual veterans and survivors has provided help and sought justice for many millions who have needed assistance in obtaining benefits.

"With the 2 million member goal a reality, I am sure your dedication and effectiveness will increase.

"As you know, Cliff, I greatly value the strong, constructive working relationship on veterans' issues that I have enjoyed with the VFW throughout my 16 years in the Senate. I look forward to continuing this work with an ever-growing successful VFW."

In his congratulatory message to Commander-in-Chief Olson, Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.), ranking minority member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said:

"Reaching your goal of 2 million members is a magnificent achievement and one that must bring tremendous satisfaction and pride to you and the other officers of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

"In war and peace, the members of the VFW have given of themselves in the highest traditions of the American nation. Your goals, your efforts and your successes have indeed been examples of the finest attributes of the nation itself. You have every right to be so very proud.

"The qualifications for VFW membership call for the highest act of citizenship. Your 2 million members have performed that act and are the essence of love of nation. It is my expectation and belief that your organization will continue to grow and that with that growth will come ever-increasing devotion to the ideals that have made the Veterans of Foreign Wars a dynamic and forceful voice for good all across our beloved land.

"Please accept my heartiest congratulations on reaching the milestone of 2 million members."



### SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

A Senate study group headed by former Sens. Pearson and Ribicoff recommended that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee be eliminated and relegated in status to a mere subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. To prevent the downgrading of this committee, which is of major importance to the nation's 28 million veterans, their dependents and survivors, Sen. Edward Zorinsky (Neb.) introduced S. Res. 139 on May 11, 1983 to retain the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as a standing committee of the Senate.

As of this writing, well over a year later, more than 50 Senators have cosponsored the Zorinsky resolution.

Following is a listing by state of Senators who are cosponsors of S. Res. 139, attesting to their unqualified support in retaining the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Senators who are not cosponsors of this measure.

Alabama—Heflin and Denton (yes); Alaska—Stevens (no), Murkowski (yes); Arizona—Goldwater (no), DeConcini (yes); Arkansas—Bumpers and Pryor (yes); California—Cranston and Wilson (yes); Colorado—Hart and Armstrong (no); Connecticut—Weicker (no), Dodd (yes); Delaware—Roth (no), Biden (yes); Florida—Chiles and Hawkins (yes); Georgia—Nunn and Mattingly (yes); Hawaii—Inouye (no), Matsunaga (yes); Idaho—McClure and Symms (no); Illinois—Percy and Dixon (no); Indiana—Lugar and Quayle (no); Iowa—Jepsen and Grassley (yes); Kansas—Dole (no), Kassebaum (yes); Kentucky—Huddleston (yes), Ford (no); Louisiana—Long and Johnston (no); Maine—Cohen and Mitchell (yes); Maryland—Mathias (no), Sarbanes (yes); Massachusetts—Kennedy (no), Tsongas (yes); Michigan—Riegle and Levin (yes); Minnesota—Durenberger and Boschwitz (yes); Mississippi—Stennis (no), Cochran (yes); Missouri—Eagleton and Danforth (no); Montana—Melcher (yes), Baucus (no); Nebraska—Exon (yes); Nevada—Laxalt (no), Hecht (yes); New Hampshire—Humphrey (yes), Rudman (no); New Jersey—Bradley and Lautenberg (yes); New Mexico—Domenici and Bingaman (no); New York—Moynihan (no), D'Amato (yes); North Carolina—Helms and East (yes); North Dakota—Burdick and Andrews (yes); Ohio—Glenn (yes), Metzenbaum (no); Oklahoma—Boren (no), Nickles (yes); Oregon—Hatfield and Packwood (no); Pennsylvania—Heinz (no), Specter (yes); Rhode Island—Pell and Chafee (no); South Carolina—Thurmond and Hollings (yes); South Dakota—Pressler and Abdnor (yes); Tennessee—Baker (no), Sasser (yes); Texas—Tower (no), Bentsen (yes); Utah—Garn and Hatch (no); Vermont—Stafford (no), Leahy (yes); Virginia—Warner (yes), Tribble (no); Washington—Gorton and Evans (no); West Virginia—Randolph and Byrd (yes); Wisconsin—Proxmire (no), Kasten (yes); Wyoming—Wallop (no), Simpson (yes).

### SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS LINKING STUDENT AID TO DRAFT REGISTRATION:

By a 6-2 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court July 5 upheld that provision of Public Law 97-252, Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1983, which requires male students who apply for federal assistance (loans, grants or work assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act) to sign a form certifying that they have either registered for the draft or are not required to register. In upholding the law, the Supreme Court overturned a lower court decision that said linking federal student aid to draft registration was imposing punishment through legislation. By resolution, the VFW supported requiring "the young men of our country who want the privilege of obtaining low cost, taxpayer financed college loans to live up to their duty to obey the laws of this country and to register for the draft."

### THURMOND WOULD BAR DRAFT REGISTRATION EVADERS FROM FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT:

Sen. Strom Thurmond has introduced S. 2740 that would prohibit employment in Civil Service positions in the executive branch of any individual required to register under Military Selective Service who has not done so.

Upon introduction, Sen., Thurmond said, "The current situation is particularly appalling when one considers that the possibility exists that a nonregistrant may obtain employment ahead of a veteran. My bill is similar to a House bill (H.R. 3984) introduced by Rep. G.V. Montgomery (Miss.) and enjoys the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States."

### CITIZENSHIP DAY AND CONSTITUTION WEEK, 1984:

By law, Sept. 17 of each year is Citizenship Day and the week beginning that day and ending Sept. 23 is Constitution Week. Therefore, on May 31 President Reagan signed Proclamation 5205 calling on appropriate government officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on Citizenship Day, Sept. 17, and urging federal, state and local officials, as well as leaders of civic, educational and religious organizations, to conduct ceremonies and programs that day to commemorate the occasion. All Americans also are asked to observe Constitution Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities in their schools, churches and other suitable places.

*continued on page 10*



## NATIONAL SECURITY

**DEFENSE ISSUES DEBATED:** The strategic defense program promises to become the single most important defense issue of the decade. Senate green light for the President's proposal to begin research and development of strategic defense against attacking ballistic missiles means Administration will get nearly all the money it asked for this project.

Further, the Army's successful test of the interceptor and destruction of a dummy warhead showed its feasibility. Several weapons are possible. First would use space-based lasers on particle beam weapons to attack missiles shortly after launching. Second type would use high speed missiles that track and destroy enemy warheads by colliding with them. Too costly, say opponents. Supporters reply combined layered active defense and passive civil defense make it easier to deter 100 nuclear weapons that might slip through rather than 10,000 warheads already aimed at U.S.

Senate also approved funds for anti-satellite weapons, removed some restrictions on testing these weapons that had been enacted in the past year. Both houses passed production of the MX Peacekeeper, but Senate bill funds 21 new ones, while House funds only 15 and delays production until April, 1985, and then only if Congress rules USSR has refused to begin serious arms negotiations. House action signals a change from weapons and forces and their costs to how much to use them to influence foreign affairs. Senate consideration of amendment to withdraw forces from Europe unless NATO partners boost defense spending is another example of change. If Congress continues this course to influence foreign policy, collision with President could develop over Constitutional authority. Could lead to confusion among allies. Foes could pit one policy against the other.

Shift in Congressional concern bears careful watching. If it reflects longterm trend that will be of great importance to the world and the role the U.S. plays in world affairs, it is reason enough for the American public to begin asking Representatives and Senators what is going on and then assess their answers.

**AMERICANS SUPPORT DEFENSE SPENDING:** Committee on Present Danger poll of 1,000 Americans shows overwhelming majority in favor of continued defense spending at same or higher levels. Results, 71% say spend more or the same as now; 65% support current levels or higher for nuclear forces. Clearly most Americans believe U.S. position, compared to Soviets', has not improved or has worsened in past five years. Fifty-seven percent told pollsters they feel that way. Two to one, they answered that the Soviets spend more for their military than does the U.S. Only 8% of the respondents knew U.S. nuclear arsenal actually has been reduced since 1968 and only 7% were aware that U.S. nuclear weapons are less destructive than in 1968.

## SERVICE

**NEW VA CEMETERY OPENED:** The 109th VA national cemetery opened May 29. It is the post cemetery at Fort Richardson, Alaska, an Army base. Under the arrangement, the VA will assume responsibility for 700 gravesites and 19 acres of adjacent land. Acquisition is expected to provide space well into the 21st century. Alaska's other national cemetery is at Sitka. At the nation's other extremity, the Bay Pines National Cemetery near St. Petersburg, Fla., closed since 1964, has been reopened as a result of reclamation of land previously thought to be unsuitable for burials because of the high water table.

**LATEST ON HANDICAPPED:** President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped has established the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a data base that brings together from many sources steps employers have been taking to make accommodations for the handicapped. Employers having a problem accommodating a disabled person may call 1-800-JAN-PCEH. No charge is made. Most employers comply willingly with affirmative action and non-discrimination programs. Disabled veterans who want more information about Sections 503 and 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act may write to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

**SERVE COUNTRY, ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL:** A medical career need not be only a dream because of high costs. Qualified college students and graduates interested in serving their country and becoming doctors might apply to the Defense Department's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at Bethesda, Md. It is tuition free, fully accredited. Students entering the program are commissioned second lieutenants or ensigns during their medical training and are paid accordingly while they are studying. After graduation, these medical officers will serve seven years in the military. Competition for admission is keen. Average point average of applicants is 3.47; MCAT scores average 10.2. Applications are accepted from June 15 to Nov. 1. Further information may be obtained from your Congressman or the Director of Admissions, Attn. PETE, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Md. 20814.



# Agent Orange Campaign Launched by Post

**F**or Paul Reutershan, death came shortly before Christmas in 1978. Reutershan, who served in Vietnam from 1968-69 as an 18-year-old helicopter crew chief, died of cancer at the age of 28. He attributed his cancer to his exposure in Vietnam to Agent Orange.

Describing his tour of duty, he said, "We used to fly through clouds of that stuff (Agent Orange) while delivering supplies to the 20th Engineer Brigade."

But Reutershan was not alone in his struggle to find answers for what affects Agent Orange may have on those exposed to it nor has his work stopped with his death.

He was a life member of VFW Post 10013 in Stamford, Conn. a Post noted for its early involvement with Vietnam veterans.

As early as 1977, some 270 Vietnam veterans belonged to this Post and all its officers had served in Vietnam, according to James Sparrow, now vice president of Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Victims, Inc. and an active VFW member.

Indeed, many members of the organization he heads also are members of the VFW and Sparrow credits the VFW with being the "original nerve center for the Agent Orange movement."

For it was while he was a member of post 10013 that Reutershan founded Agent Orange Victims, Inc. which later became Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Victims, Inc. Almost at the same time, Reutershan filed suit against the companies which had manufactured Agent Orange for use in Vietnam. (That suit was recently tentatively settled out of court for some \$180 million to be paid by the

companies. It involved some 20,000 plaintiffs.)

The Vietnam veterans of Post 10013 also were active in civic affairs and marched proudly in the Veterans Day parade in Stamford in 1977 when so many who had served in that war would not come forward or even admit that they had served.

In January, 1978, the Post called a meeting urging Vietnam veterans to come forward. A post flyer declared, "every day the younger vet hears rumors of all the clout that the older vets used to have. Let's get that clout back. The only way to do this is through membership."

Reutershan wrote to then President Jimmy Carter in June, 1978, on VFW stationery telling him: "I love my country: there is none like it on earth."

**R**eutershan described how he had exhausted all his benefits and sick leave from his job as a railroad conductor and was getting no help from the VA, as he was dying of cancer. He had read a UPI story in May, 1978 that alerted the VA to signs of possible Agent Orange illnesses in Vietnam veterans. After reading that story, Reutershan believed that he too might be an Agent Orange victim.

In his letter he added that "I fight every day to stay alive, but I am also dead broke and my benefits at work have expired. Vietnam vets have been forgotten."

As his physical condition weakened and publicity about his situation began to draw national attention, the VFW Post was swamped with hundreds of calls from veterans around the state and the nation. In his first national TV show, Reutershan proud-

ly wore his VFW shirt.

Post 10013 held its first informational meeting on Agent Orange shortly after Paul's death in February, 1979. The VFW members called the meeting the "beginning of a national public awareness campaign on Agent Orange and its possible harmful effects on Vietnam vets and their families."

Sparrow stresses that older vets were supportive of their efforts to make the public aware of the issue and to begin the long, hard fight for answers, a fight which continues to this day.

In describing Post 10013, an article in the Hartford Courant of November, 1978, praised the post as "the only post in the state whose entire slate of officers served in that Vietnam war. This VFW Post...is a place where Vietnam vets can feel proud."

In speaking with older veterans, Sparrow says that after they started talking "they found they had a

by Joan M. Maiman

common bond with the Vietnam vets which was that they

had been through the same before, during and after (the war)."

Sparrow says "we went out and asked every guy in fatigues if he had served in Vietnam. At first they thought I was crazy to mention the VFW but after they came to a meeting, they began to join."

Among other projects of the post was the clean up of Victory Park in 1978, a park listed in Ripley's Believe it or Not as "the smallest park in the world."

By 1967, after the Vietnam War began losing popular support, the park had fallen into disrepair and the memorial bearing the names of the first men from Stamford to die in Vietnam was forgotten. The Post cleaned it up. "It is something we did for the guys who did not come home from the war," says Sparrow.

In late 1978, as his body failed, Paul Reutershan's spirits were kept up by his buddies from the VFW.

**I** promised Paul I would keep faith with him, that I would see that answers about Agent Orange were found," says Frank McCarthy, Vietnam vet and member of the Post. McCarthy is now president of Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Victims, Inc.

Reutershan's VFW friends pressed for VA disability to help him with his

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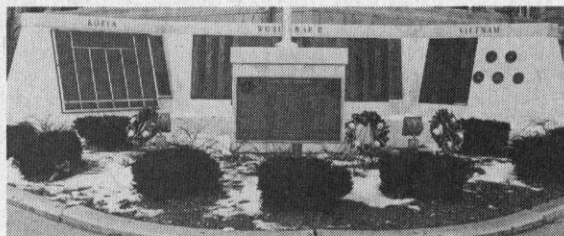
1.  
For the past year, this billboard on I-20 has greeted visitors to Conyers, Ga. It was erected after the city's selection as Number 1 Loyalty Day community. Council of Administration Member Julian Brisendine raised \$1,200 from Carey Advertising, billboard owner, and \$400 each from nine other Conyers firms for its erection.

## VFW In Action



2.  
Claude Burkhardt, center, receives life membership in Post 7523, Mineola, Texas, from Commander Bob Hadley, right, as Eli McPherson, a nursing home volunteer, looks on.

3.  
This is the monument to veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars erected in Clinton, Mass., with the help of Post 523 and three other veterans' groups.



4.  
District 9 of New Jersey presents a U.S. Flag to Luther Acres in Cumberland County. Shown are Fred Myers, VFW member and facility resident, and District 9 Commander Raymond Haugk.

*continued on page 16*





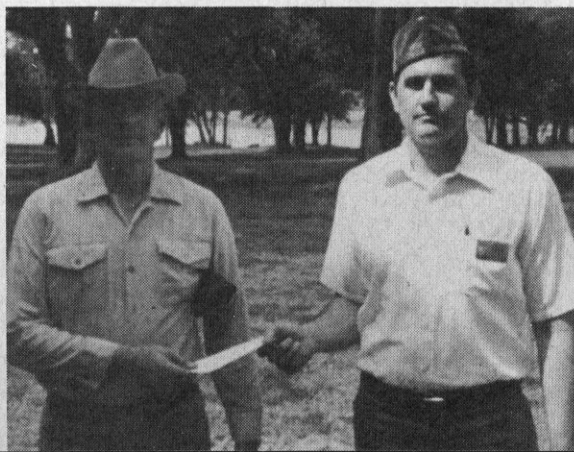
5.  
VFW Director Kenneth A. Steadman, of National Security and Foreign Affairs, presents VFW award to graduating USMA Cadet Richard C. Staats, Jr.

## VFW In Action



6.  
Before his recent death, Texas A-Q Billie Dorris recognized with awards Jerre Howard and Sylvia Ramirez, office managers of the Texas Employment Commission, for their outstanding work on behalf of veterans.

8.  
Former commandant of the Marine Corps, retired Gen. Robert H. Barrow, is signed up as a charter member of Post 8419, St. Francisville, La., by Dan Petsinger, Assistant Director of Post Development, both Vietnam veterans. Petsinger also served in the Marines.



7.  
Then Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron displays his Commander-in-Chief's cap at membership roundup at Post 6018 in Fayetteville, N.C.



## VFW-PAC ENDORSEMENTS

As many as possible VFW Political Action Committee endorsements will be published in the October issue to assist members of the organization in voting in the November elections.

Endorsements will be only for those running for the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives and President, if such a recommendation is made.

Candidates for state and local offices are not endorsed by the VFW-PAC, in accordance with the By-Laws adopted at the 80th National Convention establishing the VFW-PAC.

Non-partisan, the VFW-PAC endorses candidates running for re-election on the basis of their voting records on 14 issues in the Senate and House, 28 in all, the VFW-PAC regards as critical.

Seven issues relate to veterans' issues and seven to national security and foreign affairs.

Endorsements of those seeking election to the Senate and House for the first time are made on the basis of their replies to a VFW-PAC questionnaire sounding out their views on veterans' and defense concerns.

As the VFW Magazine has for the past two federal elections, the issues also will be published.

Regrettably, some endorsements will not be published in the October issue because of the lateness of several primaries in September. VFW members, however, will be informed through mailings of VFW-PAC positions on those who were not listed in the October issue.

The VFW-PAC was established in 1979. In the 1980 elections, 89% of its endorsed candidates won and two years ago 91% were successful.

### St. Louis Invites Veterans; Nov. 9-11

All veterans are invited to take part in the Metropolitan St. Louis Veterans Day Observance. The three-day event will conclude on Nov. 11 with the NFL game of the week between the St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys. Prior to the game, there will be military activity. Air Force jets will salute veterans by flying over Busch Stadium at halftime. Further information may be obtained from William S. Lill, chairman, in care of Federal/Gateway, 93 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, Mo. 63043.

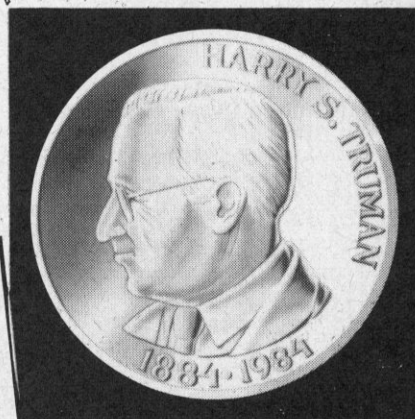
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within 30 Days!**

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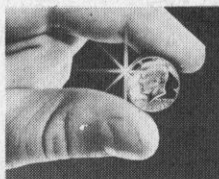


Enlarged to show detail

America remembers Harry S. Truman! As our 33rd President... as a leader who guided us through the victorious end of World War II and the dark times of Korea... and as a man who earned his famous "Give 'em Hell, Harry" nickname by always speaking his mind.

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Shown actual size.

Now to commemorate his 100th birthday, Sterling Treasury has created this original Harry S. Truman **GOLDPIECE** made of gleaming **SOLID 14K GOLD!** This handsome

9mm tribute is double-dated 1884-1984 and struck from hand-engraved dies to capture exquisite detail. But you must act quickly to obtain your historic Truman goldpiece at these special introductory prices. Take advantage of terrific discounts on quantity orders. These valuable goldpieces make distinctive gifts... heirlooms worthy of passing on to future generations... so purchase extras and save!

### Issued in STRICTLY LIMITED EDITION.

These Harry S. Truman goldpieces are being issued only during this 100th anniversary year. After that, the dies will be destroyed and the edition closed forever. Due to the fluctuations in the gold market we can only guarantee our \$10 price for the next 30 days, so to avoid disappointment, place your order now! Save on quantity orders... two 14K solid gold Truman tributes, only \$18; five for \$35; ten for just \$60; twenty for just \$100.



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- ☐ TEN, only \$60 postpaid.
- ☐ TWENTY, only \$100 postpaid.

☐ Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(NY State residents add sales tax.)

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☐ Diner's Club ☐ American Express

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# Membership



DIV. I

George D. Miller (10)  
Ohio



DIV. II

Earl Gunnels, Jr. (3)  
California



DIV. III

Lester Davis (7)  
Florida



DIV. IV

Claude (Jack) Ragan (4)  
North Carolina



DIV. V

Otis N. Berry (6)  
Virginia

June

*Commanders-of-the-month*



DIV. VI

J.W. Bohanan (2)  
Georgia



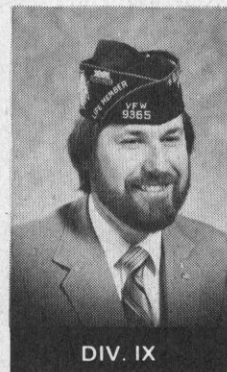
DIV. VII

Henry S. Allen, Sr. (4)  
South Carolina



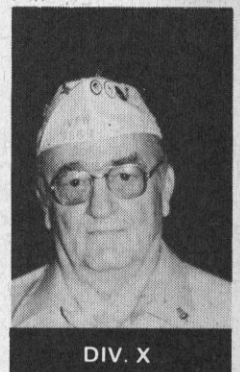
DIV. VIII

Elmo Whitmore (6)  
New Mexico



DIV. IX

Gene Corbin (10)  
Alaska



DIV. X

Bobby G. Black  
Germany

(parentetical number indicates times commander has won this honor)

## Order of Parade

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 102.05%

1	Alaska	115.61	19	Missouri	102.93	37	Pennsylvania	101.32
2	Germany	114.85	20	California	102.84	38	Michigan	101.19
3	Utah	114.79	21	Washington	102.77	39	Indiana	101.152
4	Panama Canal	110.84	22	Rhode Island	102.71	40	Wisconsin	101.145
5	South Carolina	109.16	23	Maryland	102.70	41	Montana	101.07
6	Florida	108.11	24	North Dakota	102.62	42	Nebraska	101.06
7	New Mexico	104.60	25	Kentucky	102.48	43	Minnesota	101.01
8	North Carolina	104.43	26	Vermont	102.37	44	New York	100.67
9	Arizona	104.31	27	Hawaii	102.29	45	South Dakota	100.66
10	New Hampshire	104.23	28	Oregon	102.22	46	Oklahoma	100.31
11	Ohio	103.95	29	Connecticut	102.06	47	West Virginia	100.28
12	Virginia	103.92	30	District of Columbia	102.01	48	Louisiana	100.11
13	Georgia	103.85	31	Pacific Area	101.97	49	Illinois	99.39
14	Arkansas	103.35	32	Tennessee	101.92	50	Maine	99.30
15	Alabama	103.28	33	Colorado	101.83	51	Kansas	99.00
16	Mississippi	103.24	34	Texas	101.66	52	Idaho	98.68
17	Iowa	103.14	35	Massachusetts	101.64	53	Wyoming	97.22
18	Nevada	103.04	36	New Jersey	101.44	LAST	Delaware	97.18

achieved July 31, 1984

## National aides-de-camp

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of July, 1984. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

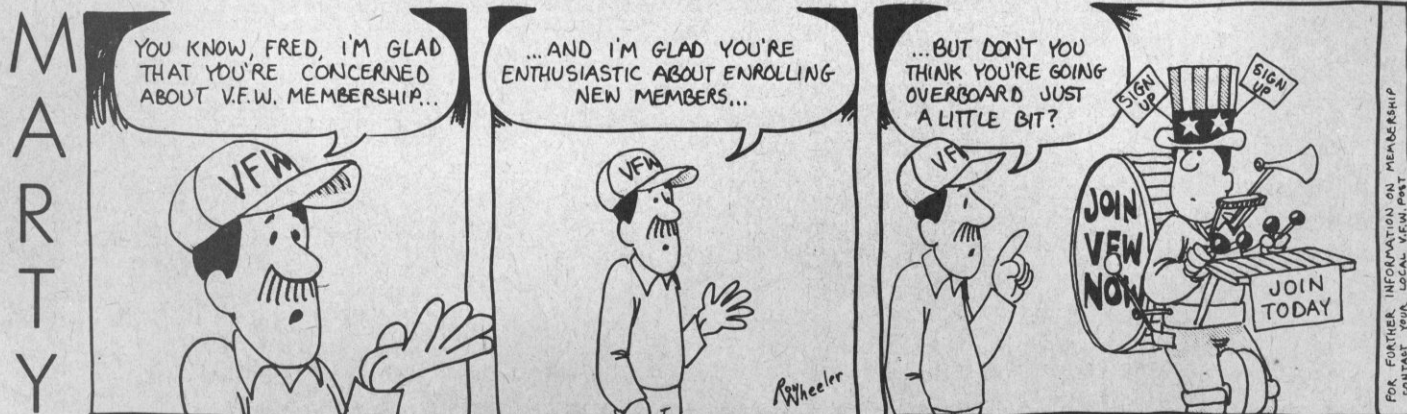
Michael J. Kemery, Post 10506, Berlin,

Germany; Paul Spicer and Walter J. McConaghy, Post 3892, Harker Heights, Texas; George B. Benker and Jack A. Wallace, Post 1837, Dallas, Texas; Bob Black and James H. Goudy, Post 9659, Ramstein, Germany; William G. Miller and Beryle W. Mattison, Post 524, Corning, N.Y., and Leon E. Drew, Post 8798, Eufaula, Okla.

# Posts of 1,000 Members or More

Post Place No.	Location	1984 Membership							
1 1114	Evansville, Ind.	4,079	65 891	Asheville, N.C.	1,466	129 658	Macon, Ga.	1,138	
2 3579	Park Ridge, Ill.	2,828	66 832	South Portland, Maine	1,464	130 191	Canonsburg, Pa.	1,138	
3 49	Mobile, Ala.	2,709	67 5179	San Diego, Calif.	1,450	131 1087	Great Falls, Mont.	1,134	
4 628	Sioux Falls, S.D.	2,616	68 7119	Indianapolis, Ind.	1,434	132 5266	Morristown, Tenn.	1,131	
5 1308	Alton, Ill.	2,575	69 733	Mason City, Iowa	1,431	133 9969	Del City, Okla.	1,123	
6 47	Uniontown, Pa.	2,528	70 6896	Detroit, Mich.	1,430	134 382	El Reno, Okla.	1,121	
7 1146	Saint Clair Shores, Mich.	2,503	71 1432	Salina, Kans.	1,429	135 6800	Somerville, Mass.	1,120	
8 1064	Huntington, W. Va.	2,452	72 3892	Harker Hts., Texas	1,427	136 155	Johnstown, Pa.	1,118	
9 5555	Richfield, Minn.	2,363	73 577	Tulsa, Okla.	1,422	137 668	Birmingham, Ala.	1,115	
10 131	Lincoln, Neb.	2,198	74 295	S. St. Paul, Minn.	1,408	138 7069	Clarks Summit, Pa.	1,113	
11 360	Mishawaka, Ind.	2,153	75 2529	Sandusky, Ohio	1,401	139 3368	Mount Pleasant, Pa.	1,105	
12 1273	Rapid City, S.D.	2,151	76 5206	Hendersonville, N.C.	1,385	140 4256	Madeira Beach, Fla.	1,102	
13 1296	Bloomington, Minn.	2,031	77 3777	Festus, Mo.	1,385	141 9337	Gastonia, N.C.	1,102	
14 401	Albuquerque, N.M.	2,016	78 447	Albert Lea, Minn.	1,377	142 1848	Jackson, Tenn.	1,101	
15 6704	Mechanicsburg, Pa.	1,991	79 2130	Lake Charles, La.	1,375	143 1383	Klamath Falls, Ore.	1,101	
16 2290	Manville, N.J.	1,982	80 589	Hazleton, Pa.	1,371	144 7686	Alamogordo, N.M.	1,100	
17 3382	Kingsport, Tenn.	1,977	81 1865	Kenosha, Wis.	1,371	145 9223	Arlington, Calif.	1,092	
18 6506	Rosedale, Md.	1,927	82 1810	Brentwood, Pa.	1,356	146 5108	Marietta, Ohio	1,090	
19 2539	Gulfport, Miss.	1,923	83 4057	Tupelo, Miss.	1,354	147 1693	New Albany, Ind.	1,090	
20 249	Butler, Pa.	1,920	84 6251	Cheektowaga, N.Y.	1,352	148 2149	Bensenville, Ill.	1,084	
21 283	Kingston, Pa.	1,861	85 3838	Cape Girardeau, Mo.	1,348	149 2496	Alpena, Mich.	1,077	
22 969	Tacoma, Wash.	1,852	86 6874	Lemon Grove, Calif.	1,348	150 788	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	1,077	
23 6640	Metairie, La.	1,850	87 2199	Joliet, Ill.	1,346	151 4075	Frankfort, Ky.	1,077	
24 2100	Everett, Wash.	1,790	88 762	Fargo, N.D.	1,343	152 6827	Saint Petersburg, Fla.	1,076	
25 5263	Fort Sill, Okla.	1,779	89 2093	Orlando, Fla.	1,338	153 2867	Garfield, N.J.	1,076	
26 6975	Bristol, Va.	1,774	90 1216	Austin, Minn.	1,334	154 4548	Jacksonville, Ark.	1,075	
27 379	Yakima, Wash.	1,773	91 972	Terre Haute, Ind.	1,322	155 2166	Elizabethton, Tenn.	1,074	
28 1275	Lima, Ohio	1,740	92 428	Saint Cloud, Minn.	1,320	156 167	Charleroi, Pa.	1,074	
29 573	Clarksburg, W. Va.	1,718	93 3160	Norfolk, Va.	1,316	157 9539	Spartanburg, S.C.	1,073	
30 4372	Odessa, Texas	1,717	94 2346	Saugus, Mass.	1,314	158 943	Ashtabula, Ohio	1,069	
31 1003	Jefferson City, Mo.	1,714	95 1435	Spokane, Wash.	1,302	159 1936	Hagerstown, Md.	1,063	
32 8541	San Antonio, Texas	1,694	96 1201	Ponca City, Okla.	1,296	160 495	Columbus, Ohio	1,057	
33 7987	New Port Richey, Fla.	1,689	97 2940	West Seneca, N.Y.	1,282	161 1720	Grand Rapids, Minn.	1,056	
34 641	Columbia, S.C.	1,629	98 1990	Greenville, Tenn.	1,280	162 1754	Huntingdon, Pa.	1,050	
35 3851	Carmi, Ill.	1,628	99 1475	Amarillo, Texas	1,271	163 529	Somerville, Mass.	1,050	
36 9619	Morningside, Md.	1,621	100 3962	Corinth, Miss.	1,266	164 1881	Cheyenne, Wyo.	1,048	
37 2704	South Omaha, Neb.	1,611	101 145	Bridgeport, Conn.	1,250	165 99	Decatur, Ill.	1,047	
38 367	Joliet, Ill.	1,610	102 4848	Chattanooga, Tenn.	1,245	166 5542	Bristol, Pa.	1,047	
39 2012	Abilene, Texas	1,606	103 1536	Sayre, Pa.	1,231	167 737	Council Bluff, Iowa	1,043	
40 112	Wichita, Kans.	1,600	104 1590	Daytona Beach, Fla.	1,222	168 3373	Pascagoula, Miss.	1,039	
41 1000	Independence, Mo.	1,590	105 9186	San Antonio, Texas	1,221	169 5064	McMinnville, Tenn.	1,036	
42 1599	Chambersburg, Pa.	1,585	106 1863	Solon, Ohio	1,219	170 639	Malden, Mass.	1,036	
43 501	Denver, Colo.	1,571	107 6712	Revere, Mass.	1,218	171 847	Superior, Wis.	1,034	
44 5632	St. Louis Park, Minn.	1,565	108 3790	Logansport, Ind.	1,216	172 3588	Lake Worth, Fla.	1,031	
45 549	Tucson, Ariz.	1,557	109 2702	Huntsville, Ala.	1,214	173 753	Minot, N.D.	1,031	
46 1736	Alexandria, La.	1,554	110 2640	Wallington, N.J.	1,212	174 950	Mankato, Minn.	1,031	
47 1989	Indiana, Pa.	1,546	111 1120	Indianapolis, Ind.	1,203	175 2466	Lubbock, Texas	1,029	
48 7175	Millington, Tenn.	1,543	112 1639	Willmar, Minn.	1,196	176 3553	Chester, Ill.	1,029	
49 1621	Janesville, Wis.	1,540	113 137	Duluth, Minn.	1,191	177 701	Lansing, Mich.	1,026	
50 2754	West View, Pa.	1,535	114 1474	Spokane, Wash.	1,183	178 5290	Conyers, Ga.	1,026	
51 7330	Oakville, Conn.	1,534	115 4051	Colorado Springs, Colo.	1,183	179 1600	Bellefonte, Pa.	1,023	
52 9400	Sunnyslope, Ariz.	1,531	116 8919	El Paso, Texas	1,181	180 1223	Moorhead, Minn.	1,017	
53 23	Lebanon, Pa.	1,528	117 8790	Houston, Texas	1,176	181 2716	Weirton, W. Va.	1,016	
54 1079	Elyria, Ohio	1,521	118 4488	Grenada, Miss.	1,175	182 2147	Wichita Falls, Texas	1,015	
55 9191	Killeen, Texas	1,514	119 305	Eau Claire, Wis.	1,169	183 6672	Thomson, Ga.	1,015	
56 4903	Tucson, Ariz.	1,512	120 425	Hopkins, Minn.	1,167	184 2785	Albany, Ga.	1,014	
57 2503	Omaha, Neb.	1,511	121 1944	Puente, Calif.	1,167	185 5220	Oak Lawn, Ill.	1,013	
58 1	Denver, Colo.	1,507	122 1115	Hillsville, Va.	1,167	186 245	Sellersville, Pa.	1,012	
59 53	Jamestown, N.Y.	1,506	123 1411	Cumberland, Md.	1,166	187 3042	Laurel, Miss.	1,006	
60 1650	Topeka, Kans.	1,505	124 6240	Russell, Kans.	1,163	188 1069	Fairfield, Ohio	1,003	
61 6796	Dallas, Texas	1,503	125 1271	Central Falls, R.I.	1,162	189 2520	Berlin, N.H.	1,003	
62 1857	Oklahoma City, Okla.	1,495	126 3376	Ephrata, Pa.	1,155	190 1492	Streator, Ill.	1,003	
63 5225	West Memphis, Ark.	1,479	127 3074	Lexington, N.C.	1,148	191 673	Jasper, Ind.	1,000	
64 4087	Davison, Mich.	1,477	128 905	Gardner, Mass.	1,141				

recorded as of July 31, 1984





## New Post Is All Active Navy

Minnesota has a new VFW Post, but only one of its members lives in the state—the one who organized it.

Reason is that Post 9074's 106 members are all serving aboard the USS Moosbrugger, which is the name of the Post, although its headquarters are listed officially in Minneapolis in the Department's District 7.

The Post was instituted and its officers installed at the Department convention in St. Paul on June 21 by Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief John S. Staum.

The story of Post 9074 is as current as today's headlines. Actually, the background mirrors two of the biggest stories of 1983—the Grenada rescue mission and the Marines at the Beirut airport.

Recruitment originated from an article in a recent VFW Magazine reporting that participants in the Grenada expedition and Lebanon had been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

As David R. Dahlquist, now the Post Commander and a Minneapolis Navy recruiter serving on the ship when he was a member of Minneapolis Post 9056, writes:

"When the ship deployed, my VFW Magazine was one of the sources of information that floated around the ship when I was through with it. From some of the articles, interest in the VFW was generated by crew members...We got the news that we had been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal from the VFW Magazine that I got in the mail the day before the message arrived on the ship."

Dahlquist obtained from Dick Jeppesen, of Post 9056, applications and began recruiting — 52 the first day.

Ten days later, Dahlquist had brought 106 new members into the VFW. He may have recruited even more, but the last mail was leaving the ship and it was beginning its trip home.

"I didn't do much but explain what the VFW is and what it does and take applications," Dahlquist explains, adding modestly, "I also had a captive audience."

The story of the Moosbrugger's  
*continued on page 23*

Imported from Brazil and made on the world famous

# U.S. NAVY LAST

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Genuine Leather Sole

Genuine Rubber Heel

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The U.S. Navy Quartermaster designed these shoes for full support, excellent quality and masterpiece fit!

Ever since, they have faithfully served millions of American servicemen with the most comfortable feet in the world. They look the Best. Feel the Best; they're Made the Best! If you want to return to executive quality like it ought to be, afford yourself these top grade shoes from Haband, direct by U.S. mail! We have complete warehouse stock, all sizes now on hand!

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NO "BRAND NAME" ADVERTISING!**

Ever wonder why other shoes cost \$50 or \$100 per pair?? You pay for high priced "stylists" who torture your feet in the name of Fashion! Meanwhile these Genuine Leather, Genuine U.S. Navy last shoes will never change. You get famous fit, quality you can count on: Genuine Leather Uppers, Genuine Leather Soles, World's best GOODYEAR WELT construction. Solid Rubber Heel. Full heel counters. Steel shank in arch, five eyelet Oxfords with heavy duty braided laces! **YOU KNOW** the U.S. Navy would never trifle with less than "the Best!" Now let us serve you with the deluxe Navy Last shoes unadvertised except by reputation, and you'll cash in on the best there is at the best price in town. **Order Now — No Risk — MONEY BACK TRIAL. But Hurry, Civilian Production Limited!**

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Full Support, Solid Stance  
Plenty of Room for your Toes!  
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These shoes are made on the U.S.  
Navy Last by world's BEST shoe  
craftsmen in Brazil.



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Exact  
Size!  
Even The  
Wides!

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Name ..... 77M-474  
Street ..... Apt. # .....  
City/State ..... Zip .....

**YOUR SIZE:** 6½-7½-8-8½-9-9½-10-10½-11-12-13 in Medium (D) & Wide \* (EEE) NO SIZE 6½ or 13 in Wide. (\*Add \$1 per pair for Wide)

**ORDER HERE:**

Color	474	HOW Many?	WHAT Size?	WHAT Width?
HIGH GLOSS BLACK ONLY	A			

**UN-ADVERTISED Navy Last Shoes 24<sup>95</sup>** No Risk Trial!

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for only

# STATE AND DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS

## 1984 - 85



Clayton Pitman  
Alabama



Robert Smith  
Alaska



Donald A. Esposito  
Arizona



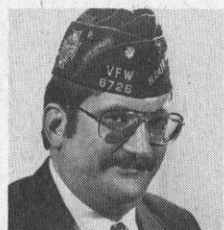
Ernie Kyzer  
Arkansas



Joseph F. Martin  
California



Tony A. Wasinger  
Colorado



Peter Muscolino  
Connecticut



Harley V. Taylor  
Delaware



Hugh D. Seckinger  
District of Columbia



Edwin Shuman  
Florida



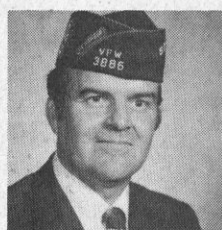
T.D. Culpepper  
Georgia



Willis T. Alger  
Germany



Edward Stewart  
Hawaii



James Schimmels  
Idaho



Christopher Tsilis  
Illinois



Wayne Smith  
Indiana



Darrel Miller  
Iowa



Norman Dan Smith  
Kansas



John H. Ranson  
Kentucky



Alva D. Nash  
Louisiana



John T. McIsaac  
Maine



Casimir Lukoski  
Maryland



Charles W. Greenan, Jr.  
Massachusetts



Dino Costantini  
Michigan



Delmar Lambrecht  
Minnesota



## Navy Post

continued from page 21

voyage probably is not much different from that of scores of other Navy vessels when important events are taking place.

As Dahlquist tells it, the destroyer left the East Coast last fall for what was expected to be a leisurely cruise, with liberty planned for Spain. Then came Grenada and the Moosbrugger was ordered south by southwest to take part in that action.

With the completion of the Grenada mission, the ship then was ordered to the Mediterranean to assist the Marines in Beirut — 241 had been killed in the carbombing of the Marine barracks at the Beirut airport.

"The ship spent 86% of 196 days during the deployment at sea, most of it off Lebanon," Dahlquist recalls.

## VA Preparing New Pamphlet On Marker Rules

The Veterans Administration is preparing a new pamphlet setting forth more information on its headstone and grave marker benefits.

Title is "The Veterans Headstone and Marker Program" and will be sent to VA facilities and veterans' organizations, such as the VFW, for public distribution.

Although the VA does not pay for installation of government-supplied headstones in private cemeteries, Paul T. Bannai, chief director of the VA's Department of Memorial Affairs, said the VA does pay a \$300 burial allowance and a \$150 plot allowance for eligible veterans to help defray their funeral expenses and the cost of grave space.

Bannai said headstone setting charges could be paid from these allowances.

Last year Bannai's department shipped some 210,000 headstones or markers to private cemeteries, but a reminder of the VA's rule is necessary because some persons do not understand the VA's rules when applying for the government markers.

The marker application states that installation costs must be paid from private funds, but the VA wants to be sure next-of-kin are aware of this requirement.

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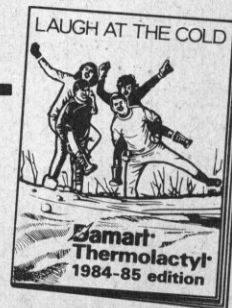
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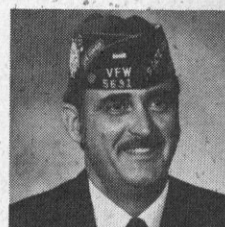
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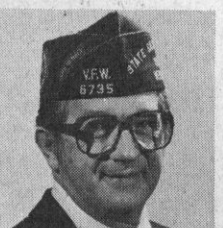
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# All Americans

*Here are the 157 Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders who have moved the Veterans of Foreign Wars To Greater Heights during the 1983-84 membership year of Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson, Jr.,*

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# 1983-84

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That's why it's important to your family's future security to catch up by supplementing the protection you provided in the past.

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The amount of life insurance available to you depends on your age. For example: If you are under age 50, you can apply for \$15,000 coverage; age 50 to 59 - \$10,000; age 60 to 69 - \$5,000; and age 70 to 79 - \$2,500. What's more, you can keep \$2,500 coverage all the way up to age 90, when the Plan ends.

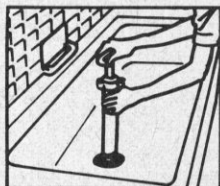
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# Barbed

## W I R E

By Jack Cody

War, like barbed wire, not only cuts but scars.

As the years pass and our memories dim, some of the scars of war disappear. Battlefields become wheat-fields. Soldiers become civilians. Concentration camps are torn down. Towns are rebuilt.

But unlike towns, men carry their scars with them.

The summer of 1945 was especially cruel to Stan Sommers.

Sommers was an American prisoner of war in a Japanese concentration camp near Narumi, Japan, on the main island of Honshu.

Sommers had been captured in the Philippines defending Corregidor. At first, he was a prisoner in camps on the main Filipino island of Luzon.

In 1944, the Japanese began transporting POWs to Japan by freighters. These freighters earned the name of "Hell Ships."

The POWs were jammed into the ships' holds, never intended for human cargo. There was little light or air in the holds.

The rising sun turned the holds into furnaces. Men went mad with thirst.

Until enough men died, there wasn't room to sit down. Most prisoners

spent the trip below deck. Only half of them made it to Japan alive.

Stan Sommers' days were marked by disease, rumor and starvation. After three-and-a-half years of imprisonment, hope of rescue began to fade.

"The Japanese used us POWs as slave labor," Sommers said. "*Yasume* days (days of rest) were few. I worked 10 to 15 hours a day on a starvation diet. At 25 years old, I weighed 90 pounds.

"Although I was sick with dysentery and beri-beri, I avoided the camp hospital. A stay there meant death."

The POWs had to bow to all Japanese guards regardless of rank. The guards beat, tortured and killed their prisoners on impulse. Japanese defeats on the warfront made them that much more brutal.

In the European theaters of war, only 2% of the POWs died in captivity, according to statistics. In the Pacific theaters, 40% of the POWs died in captivity.

The dog days of August brought two things into the world of 1945: nuclear warfare and peace. The nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war with Japan.

But there was no Hollywood rescue for Stan Sommers. No American



troops broke down the camp gates to free him.

Instead, the Japanese commandant announced that the empire had surrendered. "And then for the first time, the camp commandant bowed to us," Sommers said.

Sommers and the other POWs walked out of the camp and down to the local railroad station. There they caught a train to Yokohama.

It was in Yokohama that they first caught sight of the American invading force. "Compared to the soldiers coming ashore, we POWs looked very small and very old," he said.

From Yokohama, Sommers was





taken to the hospital ship USS Relief. There he was deloused, clothed and fed as much as he wanted.

Sixty days later, Sommers was in Oakland, Calif. "The first morning there, I walked down to a local drugstore that served food. I sat down and ordered a huge breakfast. Finishing the first breakfast, I ordered a second breakfast. Everyone in the drugstore stared at me," he said.

Sommers had his first physical in Oakland. The doctor gave him a quick once over. Through constant eating, he had gained 60 pounds since leaving Japan.

Sommers would never forget what

the doctor said to him after the physical: "The way you look, you must have had it good. Where did you sit the war out?"

Stan Sommers went home to Marshfield, Wis., on the early morning milk train. There was no brass band to welcome him, only darkness. He walked the few blocks to his parents' house.

"It was strange to be home," he said. "My mother kept the house neat and clean. I no longer had to hide food in my clothing. I no longer had to beg for water or sleep on the floor."

"At first, life was ideal," Sommers said. "I worked for my dad painting

houses. I could go to church on Sunday. I had the one thing I wanted most: total freedom."

Total freedom...except for his memories. Nightmares kept him awake at night. Anxiety filled his days. There were times when he felt like committing suicide.

"I was invited to local society clubs and organizations to be honored," Sommers said. "At their meetings, I was asked to get up and say a few words about my imprisonment."

"I tried to say something, but I couldn't. I couldn't talk about it. I



couldn't talk about it with anyone: not my family, not my sweetheart."

In the camps, the POWs struggled to survive physically. At home, they struggled to survive mentally.

Within two years of liberation, half of all the ex-POWs were dead.

"With the help of my wife, Peggy, prayer and hard work, I readjusted to life back here," Sommers said. "I then reenlisted in the Navy."

"One day while stationed in Hawaii," he said, "I took a good look at myself in the mirror. I saw a man with a big gut and two broomsticks for legs."

From that time on, I exercised every day."

In 1958, he retired from the Navy and returned once more to Marshfield. He was hired as a maintenance worker at the Post Office.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1866. And in 1966, he began attending the National Conventions.

"At the National Conventions, I began talking with other ex-POWs," Sommers said. "I noticed they all had the same problems."

"The ex-POWs were suffering from premature aging: they had arthritis, poor circulation, skin disease, and vision and hearing loss. They also seemed to have a vitamin dependency."

"They were angry, restless, jumping from job to job and irritable. Because of the nightmares, they weren't sleeping well. Many had marital problems."

"The ex-POWs were suffering from what would later be diagnosed as KZ (concentration camp) syndrome or POW syndrome."

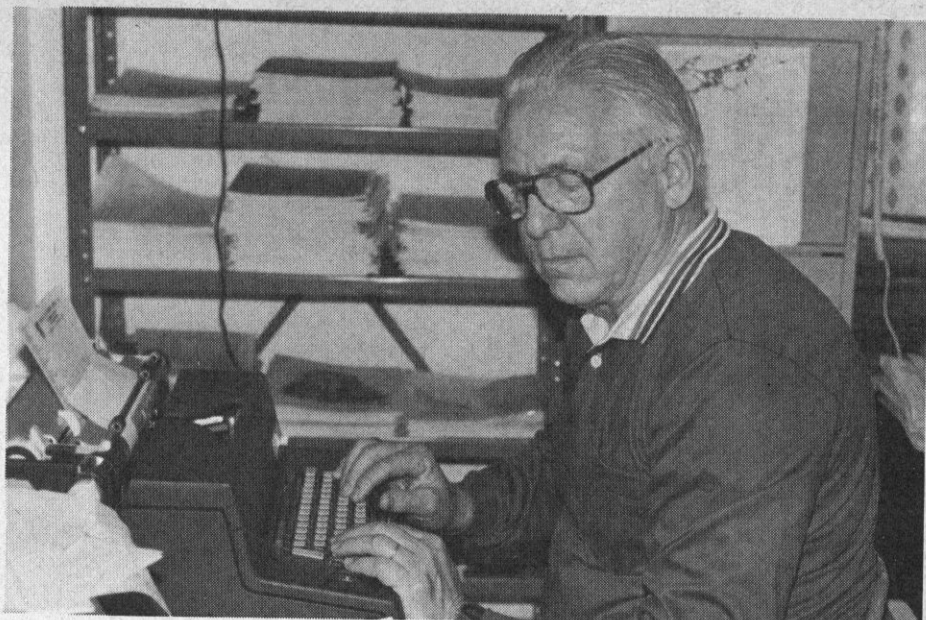
"And they were having a hard time getting adequate medical care and treatment, and what they considered just compensation from the VA."

"I knew the ex-POWs needed help," Sommers said. "But I also knew the medical community and VA wouldn't do anything without proof."

"Proper medical research would prove that ex-POWs were suffering from the after-effects of being POWs."

Using his own money, Sommers began to do research.

He soon discovered that doing medical research was a slow and tedious process. "I was disappointed because



*Stan Sommers, a World War II prisoner of the Japanese, spends much of his time writing about former POWs' concerns and giving them advice.*

my fellow ex-POWs needed help now, especially with the VA's bureaucracy," Sommers said.

Within 10 years, Sommers wrote and published 10 booklets running the gamut of POW concerns.

"Now, if an amputee veteran has a circulatory problem, he automatically gets compensation for it. He doesn't have the hassle of proving it. This is what I'd like to see for the former POW: that we come out with a list of problems of the different body systems and they'll be accepted as service connected. This will allow the ex-POW and his family to live out their lives with dignity."

Sommers advises ex-POWs to "document every scrap of information, any newspaper clipping you have, and any proof you were wounded or any atrocities committed against you. Buddy statements and wives' statements are very important, also."

Sommers is concerned about doctors who haven't had much experience with ex-POWs. "If a doctor is interested in us, he or she should go to a medical library and look up research on us," he said.

Sommers offers to send this kind of information to doctors. "Normal tests won't show the aftereffects of incarceration," he says. "They need to be extensive tests. A regular physical won't reveal much."

"Whether you're talking about World War II, the Korean War or the Vietnam War, each group of POWs suffered terribly," Sommers said.

"Because of combat and no survival training, World War II POWs were sick and in bad shape even before they were captured. Death marches, Hell Ships and starvation contributed to their high death rate. Korean War POWs endured cold weather, isolation, death marches, Hell Ships and brainwashing techniques. Vietnam War POWs were mainly pilots in top physical shape and had had survival training. But the Vietnam POWs were imprisoned the longest. (Some for as long as nine years.) And the North Vietnamese used professionals to torture them."

Since 1975, Sommers has held medical research seminars with VA officials on the aftereffects of incarceration and written extensively on the subject.

He has received numerous plaques, certificates of appreciation and awards for his work. In 1980, Marshfield Mayor Marilyn Hardacre proclaimed Dec. 7 as Stan Sommers Day.

Sommers still suffers from the aftereffects of his captivity. The loss of vision in his right eye because of optical malnutrition forced him into early retirement from the Post Office.

"I can walk maybe four blocks at most and stand maybe 15 minutes at a time. I carried heavy logs as a POW. I still see a psychologist once a month. There isn't a POW alive that doesn't have survivor's guilt. He's back here and his buddy died, but what better way to live than by helping your fellow man."



*LSTs jam the beach on Leyte to discharge war material. This was the greatest invasion force ever assembled in the Pacific Theater.*



## When MacArthur Returned

**G**EN. DOUGLAS A. MACARTHUR PICKED OCT. 20, 1944, AS THE DATE of the American landing on Leyte because it coincided with the anniversary of his arrival in Tacloban as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army following his graduation from West Point.

This little known fact was revealed by William (Bill) Dunn, the only survivor of a four-man press pool assigned to cover MacArthur during the liberation of the Philippines in World War II.

The 78-year-old veteran correspondent said that shortly before wading ashore on Leyte, MacArthur called him and the other pool reporters for a press conference on the bridge of his command ship, the USS Nashville.

Dunn recalled that MacArthur pointed a finger at the town of Tacloban and said that it was exactly on the same day in 1903 that he first arrived there to assume his post with a U.S. Army engineering unit.

"I'm coming back on the 41st anniversary of my first assignment," Dunn quoted MacArthur as saying. He added that MacArthur was "a very sentimental man and loved the Filipinos."

**By Alberto M. Alfaro**

The former correspondent reminisced about the historic Leyte landing and his feelings when he returned to Leyte in 1979 to view a monument of himself with Gen. MacArthur, President Sergio Osmena and others on Leyte beach.

"I'm the only correspondent who lived to see his own monument," Dunn said. "It is hard to describe my feelings when I saw those lifelike statues. It was a very, very nostalgic experience and I thought very much about the Old Man (Gen. MacArthur)."

Dunn vehemently denies that MacArthur had posed several times before the famous photograph of him and his party wading ashore was taken. The Leyte Monument was based on the photograph which Dunn said was taken by William B. Dickinson, one of the pool members who later became





editor of the now defunct Philadelphia Bulletin.

"There was no way MacArthur could be told to stop for a photo."

Dunn added that the story must have stemmed from the fact that the general had to return to his command ship every evening and come back to the beach the next day.

Dunn said he had the honor to introduce MacArthur during his first historic "I have returned" radio address to the Filipino people and the world from Leyte Beach.

After helping the Signal Corpsmen to set up communications equipment for the broadcast, he introduced Gen. MacArthur like this:

"People of the Philippines, the next voice you will hear will be that of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and President Sergio Osmena in Leyte."

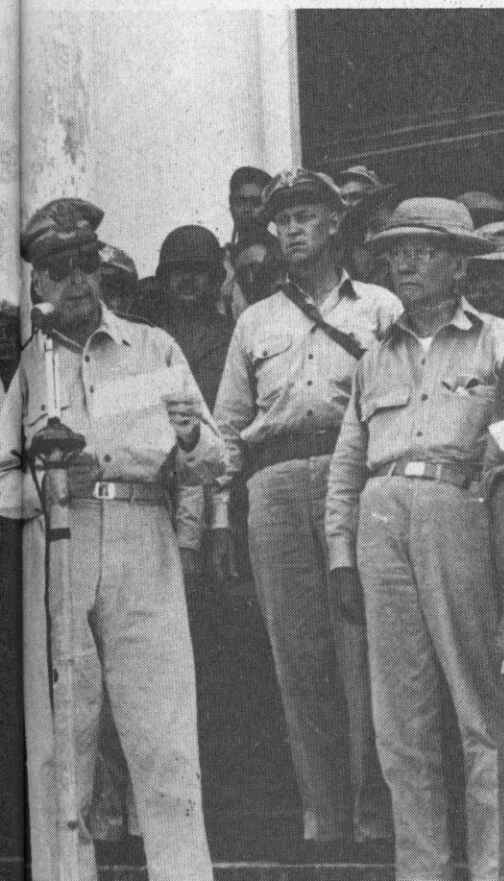
The other two members of the pool were Frank Priest, a photographer who was killed by a Japanese sniper two weeks after the landing, and Earl Crockett for newsreel. Dunn was the pool correspondent for the combined American networks.

Dunn said the sculptor of the monu-

*Bill Dunn, a pool correspondent who landed with Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur, recalls the invasion of the Philippines 40 years ago in October. (Willie Paderon Photo)*



*Two days after the landings, Gen. MacArthur announces the reestablishment of civil government headed by Philippine President Sergio Osmena, extreme right. (Photo Collection of Dr. Diosdado M. Yap)*



ment on Leyte "did a magnificent job; he made everybody look lifelike, and it is the most amazing feeling I have had."

Reviewing the events of the period, Dunn said the pool reporters boarded MacArthur's command ship in Hollandia, New Guinea, for the Leyte invasion, described by historians as one of the major turning points in the war against Japan.

When MacArthur left the Nashville and headed for the beach Oct. 20 following the successful landing of the American forces, Dunn said the general had no idea where he and his party would land. He asked a passing sailor in a landing craft, "Son, where is the heaviest fighting going on?" Dunn said the bluejacket pointed to a place on the beach and the general directed his landing barge to put in there.

Dunn said all his radio broadcasts about MacArthur and the war were routed through the Apache, President William McKinley's former yacht that had been converted into a communications ship during the war. Dunn and the pool reporters covered MacArthur up the landing in Lingayen Gulf and the drive to liberate Manila.

After the war, Dunn worked in Manila, partly as a stringer for NBC and in 1950 was assigned to Korea to cover MacArthur again. Later he went

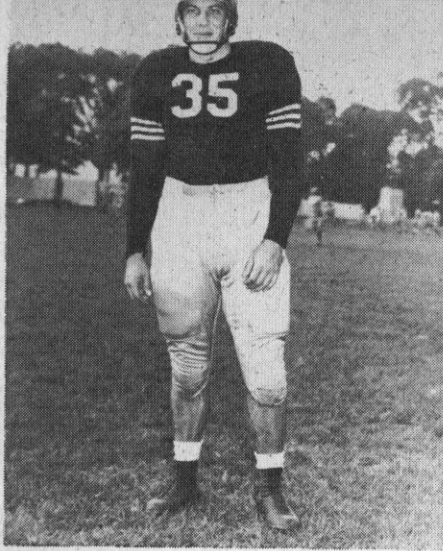
into advertising.

The Sixth Army landings at Tacloban and Dulag, 25 miles south, on Leyte from Oct. 20 to 22 under Gen. Walter Krueger—MacArthur was Southwest Pacific supreme commander—were carried out by the X and XXIV Corps made up of the 1st Cavalry, 7th, 24th and 96th Infantry Divisions; 11th, 13th, 61st, 63rd, 82nd, 99th, 198th, 271st, 287th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd and 921st FA Battalions; 44th, 763rd, 776th and 780th Tank Battalions; 632nd TD Battalion; 211th, 469th, 485th, 502nd and 504th AA Battalions and the 2nd Engineer Special Brigade. Japanese naval strength was crushed in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, Oct. 23 to 26, and their giant battleship Musashi sunk.

Marines, largely from V Phib Corps artillery, set up the sign "By grace of God and a few Marines, MacArthur's back in the Philippines."

By nightfall, the Tacloban and Dulag Beaches had been expanded and only a 10-mile gap separated them and 132,400 men and 200,000 tons of equipment had been landed.

Leyte's liberation was achieved at a cost of 3,500 American lives and 12,000 wounded. Of the 70,000 Japanese defenders on the island, only 5,000 survived.



*Felix A. (Doc) Blanchard, Army's "Mr. Inside" in 1945, the year he won the Heisman trophy, as a fullback. (USMA photo)*

## Winning The Heisman

*by Dan B. McCarthy*

**D**OWN THROUGH THE PAST 49 AUTUMNS OF U.S. COLLEGIATE football thrills, hoopla hoarseness and post-season champions, early every December some 84 million *aficionados* flip out, willingly and seriously, to nurse varied degrees of Heisman fever.

After Jay Berwanger, the University of Chicago's "one-man gang" of 1935 and first Heisman winner, fans remember Michigan's Tom Harmon, Army's Doc Blanchard, and Navy's Roger Staubach, a few of the 49 elevated to exclusive Heisman fraternity pedestals.

For these three, excelling before thunderous Saturday afternoon stadium throngs gave way to vital post-graduate chapters in their famous lives, military service in defense of their country.

Harmon, Blanchard and Staubach were Heisman winners in 1940, 1945 and 1963, respectively. Appropriately, their Heisman and military service insights come into play here.

"People today tell me I was born 25 years too soon," says Harmon, whose 33 touchdowns for the University of Michigan eclipsed a 15-year-record of 31 set by Harold (Red) Grange, of Illinois.

Harmon starred when collegiate varsity eligibility covered only three seasons. Freshman football records were not counted in NCAA statistics.

"People are thinking about today's pro salary scales," Harmon continued. "However, I played with a great Wolverine team under a great coach, Fritz Crisler. As a result of my football career, I wound up with the greatest wife and family in the world. I wouldn't change a thing."

During the late 1930s at the U of M, 01' 98 ran, passed, kicked and tackled while starring in a stack of 60-minute action games.

In Michigan's 1939 match with Iowa, the Wolverines handed Iowa its only loss of the season, 27-7. Harmon scored all Michigan's points. Nile Kinnick, the Hawkeyes' great quarterback, won the Heisman that year. (In June of 1943 Kinnick's fighter plane crash landed in the South Pacific and he was lost in action.)

Forty-three years after Harmon won the Heisman, he said: "If a young man has a hero, he has something to shoot for. During high school football, my hero was Chicago's Jay Berwanger, a person to try and follow. He did everything exceptionally well.

"I feel that the Heisman is the dream goal of every youngster who has the chance to play football. Heisman winners are in a very special club of very special guys, men who have earned membership through hard work and sacrifice. And it was worth the price," Harmon emphasizes.

During WWII Harmon piloted a B-25 Mitchell medium bomber that crashed in Amazon jungles when a vicious tropical storm battered that South American "Green Hell." He bailed out to fly again as a P-38 Lightning fighter pilot in China. "The forgotten front," Harmon calls it.

When his squadron's flight of eight P-38s attacked a Kiukiang smelter on a Yangtze riverbank, Harmon had to punch out again after his disabled Lightning fought a running dogfight against Japanese Zeros. Chinese guerrillas rescued Harmon. After 32

days behind enemy lines he was stealthily returned to a U.S. base and his injuries received attention.

Harmon, a Los Angeles resident, is active as a veteran sports media announcer.

While a cadet plebe at West Point, Felix A. (Doc) Blanchard teamed up with Glenn Davis on powerhouse Army squads. Their backfield combo brought Heisman laurels to Blanchard in 1945 and Davis in 1946. Millions of WWII GIs followed "Mr. Inside" (Blanchard) and "Mr. Outside" (Davis) during their "point a minute" grid campaigns.

As a retired USAF brigadier general, Blanchard, who lives in San Antonio, recalls:

"Actually, when the draft caught up to me I went into the Army. Nine months later I received my appointment to West Point and made the team during those boom years of Army football.

"Our 1944 win over Navy contributed heavily toward my Heisman trophy the following year. By winning 23-7 over Navy, we wrapped up a perfect nine win, no loss season, the first undefeated Army season since 1916," Blanchard exclaimed.

"Many young people today, of course, aren't familiar with Heisman winners of those times. But lots of fans from that era remember those great unbeatable Army teams during World War II," Blanchard said.

One mid-1940s sportswriter wrote: "Blanchard was the Army's human tank...and the hardest cadet to bring down on the gridiron."

Another scribe reports in the current Heisman banquet publication: "Doc now relaxes and enjoys life in Texas where he can fish and hunt to his heart's content."

Navy's Roger Staubach was the fourth junior class gridder to win the Heisman when 1963 laurels came his way. In 1981 he was voted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Staubach's pro football career was postponed four years during his Navy service. He returned from Vietnam to join the Dallas Cowboys in 1968, retiring in 1979 after 11 stellar seasons.

During the 1963 Heisman award banquet in New York City, Staubach considered his future: "I can't say for sure I'll never play pro football. But I have a year and a half to go at Annapolis...and after that, four years of active service."

A half dozen years later, the talent-



ed quarterback said:

"I volunteered for Vietnam because I believe that we, the United States, were doing the right thing — trying to stop the threat of Communism in Southeast Asia." Later, Staubach saw some things in Vietnam that he disagreed with and questioned.

"My greatest Navy thrill," he recalls, "came when they retired my No. 12 jersey." Little did he imagine then that he would wear the same number in Dallas Cowboy colors.

"Everything I've done as a professional takes a back seat to having won the Heisman in 1963," Staubach explains. "You can win the Super Bowl and the day after you'll be introduced as 'Roger Staubach, former Heisman winner and quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys.'"

"That's made an impact on my life to this day, the way people perceive the Heisman, and therefore, how they perceive you. It's a prestigious situation. And I guess all of us like some degrees of prestige.

"The Heisman came as a product of my goal to be the best quarterback I could possibly be with my instinctive abilities. I paid the price," he said. Twenty career concussions, 17



*Tom Harmon (98) sweeps right end for Michigan in 21-14 Wolverine victory over Ohio State in 1939. Harmon won the Heisman in 1940. (Wide World photo)*

shoulder separations and a banged-up knee attest to that demanding gridiron allegiance.

"There's a lot of unspectacular preparation that leads to spectacular results...if you're willing to work extremely hard," Staubach, now a Dallas real estate executive, said. "I conditioned myself, in season and off, to be mentally and physically on top, ready to play every Navy game and later with the Cowboys.

"There are no shortcuts to success. Set your sights to be the very best

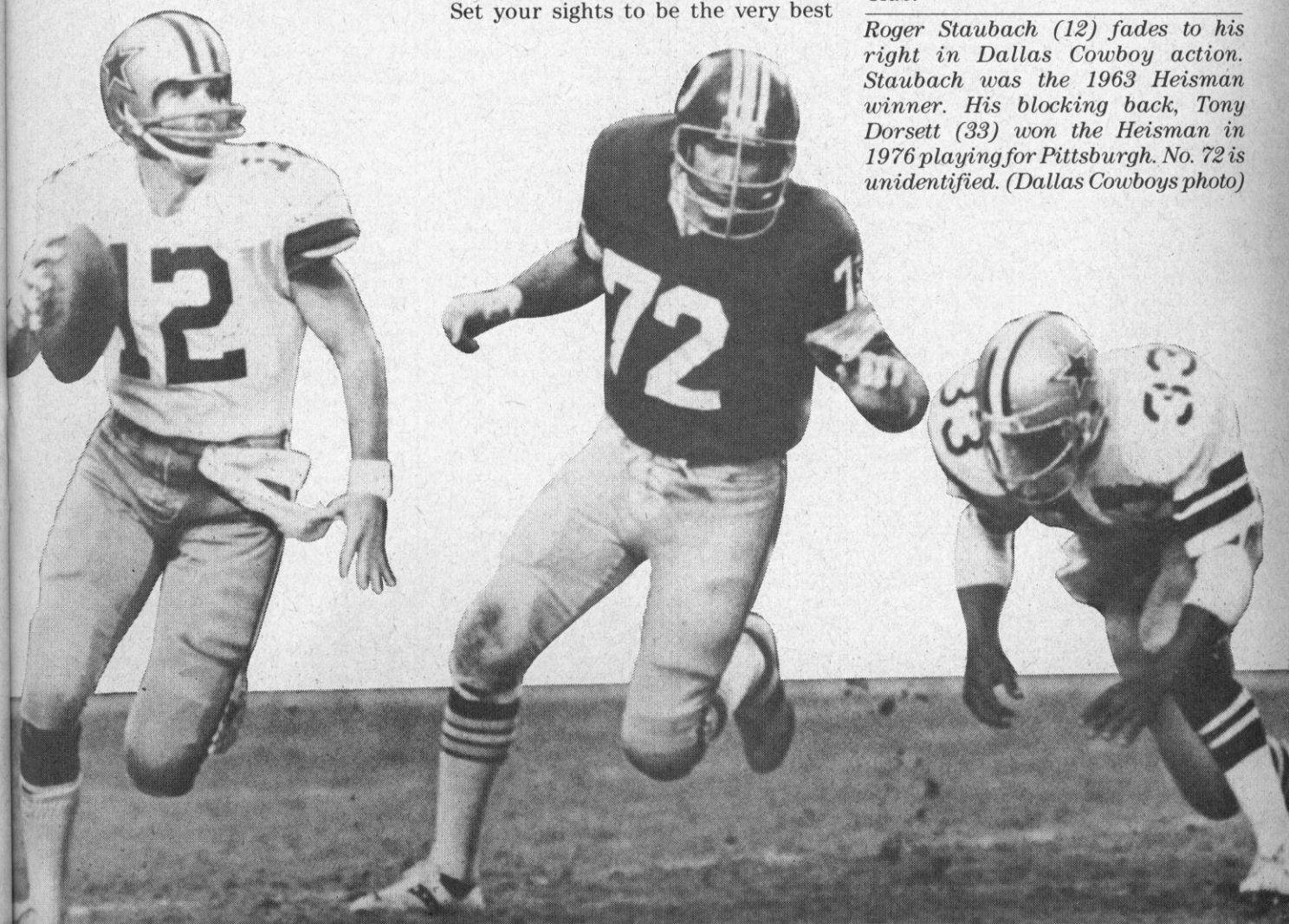
with the abilities you have. Don't worry about what sort of awards you might receive, for if you do, I think that you'll be at a disadvantage. Work hard. The honors will fall into place," Staubach believes.

Who was this Heisman for whom a trophy of honor was introduced in 1935 by the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City, sponsors of the renowned annual award?

John William Heisman was born in Cleveland in 1869. He became part of the acclaimed "Football Trinity" of coaches that included Amos Alonzo Stagg and Glenn (Pop) Warner. Heisman's persistence helped bring about legalization of the forward pass in 1906. His imaginative mind saw the forward pass as the salvation of college football during a roughhouse gridiron spree that led some college presidents and U.S. legislators to consider outlawing the game.

The Guinness Sports Record Book verifies that a Heisman-coached, offense-oriented Georgia Tech team bulled to a 220-0 trouncing of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., on Oct. 7, 1916. At his death in 1936 Heisman was athletic director of the sponsoring Downtown Athletic Club.

*Roger Staubach (12) fades to his right in Dallas Cowboy action. Staubach was the 1963 Heisman winner. His blocking back, Tony Dorsett (33) won the Heisman in 1976 playing for Pittsburgh. No. 72 is unidentified. (Dallas Cowboys photo)*



***This is a winning battle. Be persistent! Hold Out! Whip the enemy until their blood runs. We must definitely build the foundation of victory for this Greater East Asia War.***

***Upon our honor we hold this ground.***

***We, the defenders.***

He was an efficient diarist, this Japanese Imperial Army Lt. Zenrui Sugihara, a between-skirmishes historian whose descriptive hand was stilled—perhaps by death—on Feb. 26, 1945. That was three days after American colors swirled on Earthen Bowl Mountain—Suribachi—which looked like a great, eroded tree stump riddled by shafts of explosive. In Honolulu and San Francisco, toasts of triumph were lifted too soon. There would be 21 more days of slow death fighting before the last life dropped into black sand that was like broken,

discolored granite.

The diary, found not on a body but likely dropped in retreat or death, savaged the outlanders who were seizing a handhold on Japanese soil.

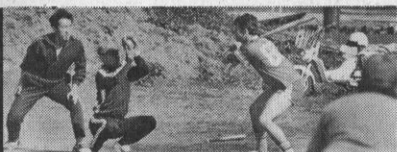
***Looking down toward the beach, I saw many warships lined up in a row, trying to reinforce their beach-head. What a hateful sight! Just wait, we will slaughter all of you.***

Sugihara and others in the thinning ranks of 7179 Node Unit certainly tried and partially succeeded—6,090 Americans killed and 17,200 wounded, in ghastly exchange for 20,500 Japanese dead and 200 captured.

***Report of the death of Capt. Hayauchi came in. Alas! I've lost a very good friend. It really is a shame. His death will be avenged.***

Would this be all there was for those who survived and others born generations beyond, a legacy of spite and an inheritance of hatred?

By Hal Drake



A moment of fast action during Saturday softball game between Japanese and Americans.

## IWO and the War that Passed this Way.

Listen now, after almost 40 years have rolled past, to the Saturday afternoon sounds above a former battleground.

"Come on, Goetz! Don't try for Suribachi, just hit the ball!"

Petty Officer 3rd Class John Goetz, a late teenager from Long Island, responds with a three-bagger and romps home on the next hit. There are long drives, showoff catches and good-natured bickering between two benches—Japanese and Americans.

Iwo Jima without a weekend softball game? It would be like smalltown Iowa without a bandshell in the park or Pasadena with no Tournament of Roses. The longest running series in the Nanpo Shoto, the island chain that dangles Iwo Jima like a pagan pendant, has been played for lost-count years, and nobody is about to break tradition this Saturday.

The Americans turn out in a patchwork profusion of jerseys—University of Santa Clara, Led Zeppelin, McNichols High School of Detroit and the Last Outpost of Evanston, Wyo. Any hand that can be spared from the closeby LORAN (Long Range Aid to Navigation) station will turn out to pitch or bat.

The Japanese, filing onto the diamond near a hangar and communications webwork, are Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) men who

wear sky-blue jumpsuits and are a study in power as well as uniformity. The Americans give up four runs in a disastrous fourth inning.

Being behind is nothing new, the Americans shrug. The Japanese are last-stand, go-for-broke players, fighting from baseline to home plate, as though possession of the island depended on it.

A golf ball blurs over a distant border of bushes and rolls under the American bench. Fireman Charlie Peffers sweeps it up.

"Musta been a good drive," he says, unperturbed by the interruption.

The Americans break loose on a long-drive rally and homer spree and it ends, 14-5, with the two teams lined up to exchange handshakes and caps-off bows, a ritual performed so often that many Americans do it with the same easy grace as the Japanese.

Lt. David K. Hebert, skipper of the American station that sends constant, pulsing signals to keep ships and planes on a safety-first course, has seen another afternoon in a long year die. Again, because of gracious hosts and lively sport, the eight square miles of Iwo Jima haven't closed in on this adaptable son of a career Air Force officer.

It's a feeling of heart-filled satisfaction to best the Japanese at anything at all, says Hebert, a 28-year-old





Coast Guard Academy graduate who left a wife, son and daughter back in Minneapolis-St. Paul to do his turn-in-the-crucible time on Iwo. Last year, in the Iwo Jima Olympics run annually by the JMSDF, competition was stiff, one American team against four fielded by the Japanese military and two from a civilian construction firm. There were 10 to 12 relay events and the Americans, no-win competitors for the last 15 years, would have been fortunate to make one face-saving first across a finish line.

"For the first time in its history, we won it," Hebert relates happily.

The next day, which could be a gloomy Sunday with a deadly expanse of spare time, Hebert will make a short drive across a dead airstrip, linked to a live one, called Motoyama—the former roost for Zero fighters, where Sugihara made his last entry.

**Approximately 200 enemy troops**

***advanced toward the Second Company CP. We engaged the enemy in combat...***

Hebert will engage a rival in golf—drive past parked Neptune patrol planes to meet Capt. Genjo Shiun, who bosses the Japanese side of a close neighborhood. They'll play in a picturesque natural depression called the Amphitheater, which is just below the softball diamond and looks like the open-roofed ruin of a Roman circus. A compact, four-hole course is laid out to be retraced for nine to 18 holes.

One American strolling along the edges of a game recovered a green-crushed brass shell casing that might have blocked a crucial putt.

"Thirty caliber," he said thoughtfully.

A long time before, the contest in the Amphitheater was give-and-take slaughter

For 23 years after the last shot, the

United States held Iwo as a temporary prize of war, handing it back to Japan in June, 1968, but leaving the LORAN site as a permanently installed fixture. Aircraft with the red disc flew back in and Iwo became an easily shared lot, two bases, two flags.

Twenty-five Coast Guardsmen share the same one-day-at-a-time ordeal, a womanless year, broken midway by a 21-day leave. It's nothing anybody does standing on his head, Hebert says, but the way out of a Devil's Island feeling is easy.

"All you have to do is be a people person..."

People like Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Davis, the island tour guide.

A 22-year-old electronic technician, Davis found that all his habits and qualities showed up instantly. For one, he read a lot, blitzed through the Bantam War Books and talked knowledgeably of the Iwo Jima campaign, pointing out landmarks like a historian with a life-sized cyclorama.

"You're the guide," Hebert told him one day. So, when infrequent visitors arrive, Davis heads for a secondhand bus that was built for mainland schoolchildren and has low seats that strain the haunches of foreign adults. They hunker down and he drives past the stones and pylons the Japanese Iwo Jima Survivor's Association—the very few of the few hundred left—erected to mark those caves and gun emplacements that became crypts.

"Of the 21,000 Japanese, there're approximately 7,000 still missing..."

Slight and laconic, Davis goes through thick stands of ginkgo and passes rock heaps and sulphur pits, sometimes the faint roots of a fortification—all related in a rapid spiel.

Association members who fly over from Tokyo to explore the caves have found scraps of bone and complete skeletons.

"One man, I remember, was looking for his father still. There're a lot of people actively looking for relatives out here. A lot of times, they can tell by the teeth because a lot of Japanese had gold teeth. And also, around the bodies most of the time, they find personal effects...glasses, things like that."

He passes a tarpit, close to where those Sugihara hated—the rowdy teenagers called Marines—first reached the northern shoreline, beneath the fractured crown of Suribachi. And all around are the caves, devilish, down-to-earthcore defenses that all but hollowed out the island, thrusting



*Colors go up on Iwo Jima in sunup ceremony, but the island belongs to Japan.*

past underground sulphur pits that fill long tunnels with the head of a baker's oven.

Davis and Petty Officer 2nd Class John Allan, in league with many others, are "cavers." These are the Saturday explorers who crawl through dark shaft and sulphur stink, crossing thick stands of ginkgo and banyan to find a hatch-sized hole in hard brown rock. They take a deep, knee-and-haunches plunge and are suddenly almost upright, wedged in a narrow fist of earth and rock, with thin light behind them and a probing flashlight beam ahead.

Sugihara wrote of these caves.

*It is just like staying in the hold of a ship...One must live in the nude while listening to the bombardment. When I went out to feel the cool evening air, I felt as though I had been reborn.*

There are confessional-sized niches in the walls, like the crypts in a catacomb, hastily gouged for enlisted men who slept with their knees as a pillow. One wonders if men came out of here in condensed posture, hunched over in a blighted and distinctive gait.

Ahead, as the tunnel breaks into an intersection shaped like a tuning fork, there are wider burrows for officers—earthen shelves in a dark museum of forgotten artifacts. The soles of the narrow, ankle-high boots worn by Imperial Army soldiers are found, and hands fumble over the rotted leather and corroded canisters of gas masks. A caver might find the stiffened pocket of a cartridge belt or recover a real prize—the fossil-like stalk of an Arisaka rifle, perhaps the frame of a Nambu pistol. Hafts or swords have been brought out of the caves and Allen disinterred a cigarette case that had a split cover and torn back, plainly marking the passage of a bullet. Remotely seen through the rust are ideographic characters, perhaps the faint etch of a name. The find will pass into the hands of the two survivors, perhaps to find its way next to a faded photograph in a family shrine.

"We give them a lot of stuff," Davis says.

Some relics in the long tombs are cursed with peril and reverently avoided. Japanese grenades the size of searchlight batteries are shorttempered after years of neglect and might burst at the slightest shake or touch.

*continued on page 43*

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VA Administrator Harry N. Walters with  
Past Commander-in-Chief James Van  
Zandt. (Altoona Mirror Photo)

# Van Zandt Honored



**A**n honor that few men have received came on July 21 to Past Commander-in-Chief James E. Van Zandt who served the VFW for three consecutive terms.

The Altoona, Pa., VA hospital was named the James E. Van Zandt Medical Center in recognition of his long service to the nation's veterans and to his country as a Congressman from Altoona for many years and a veteran of both World Wars and the Korean War.

A retired admiral, Van Zandt was resplendent in his white uniform and more than four rows of ribbons during the rededication ceremonies at the VA hospital.

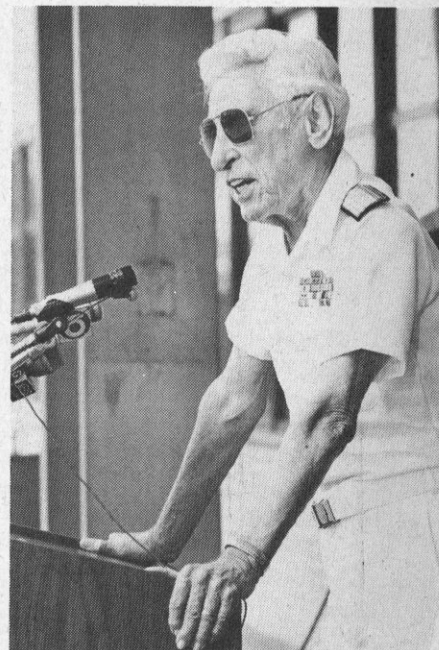
The nine-county primary service area and the fee basis clinic of jurisdiction of 17 counties serve an area of some 100,000 veterans. The 143 general medical and surgical bed medical

center and 33-bed nursing home care unit is staffed by 350 fulltime and part-time employees.

On hand to take part in the ceremonies and the luncheon following were VA Administrator Harry N. Walters, Rep. Bud Shuster and Altoona Mayor David L. Jannetta who proclaimed the occasion "James E. Van Zandt Day."

Joining in the dedicatory program also were Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph A. Scerra, Francis W. Stover, deputy chief counsel of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and a musical combo from VFW Post 47, Uniontown, Pa.

He is the second Past Commander-in-Chief for whom a VA medical center has been named. Two years ago the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center was dedicated in Indianapolis.



*Van Zandt expresses his gratitude for the renaming of Altoona, Pa., VA hospital in his honor. (Altoona Mirror Photo)*

*Rep. Bud Shuster (Pa.) hands Van Zandt a souvenir book of memorabilia at luncheon marking rededication of VA hospital in Van Zandt's honor. (VA Photo)*







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continued from page 27

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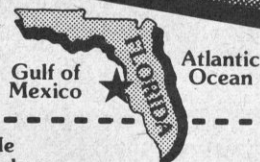
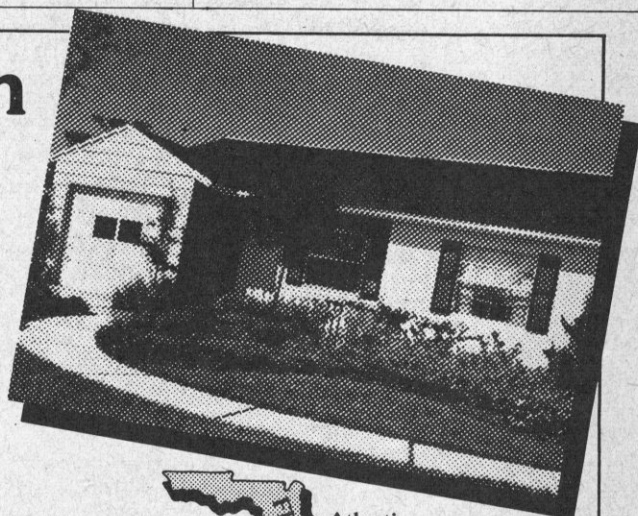
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VF 7/84



# IWO

continued from page 39

Allan is custodian of a postwar translation of Sugihara's diary, storing it in a headquarters computer as something to be saved and seen by many.

**Our north sector guns opened fire and as a result inflicted great damage upon an enemy cruiser, amidships of which is now ablaze.**

Big Bertha, an eight-incher, hangs mutely out of a broken jaw of concrete. Surviving 77 days of all-hours bombing and three days of scourging by naval gunfire, she continued to belch fire at American warships, almost sank the cruiser Pensacola with two waterline hits. Then her barrel cracked and she was mute and feeble as the battleships Washington and South Dakota returned her troublesome fire. Bertha somehow survived, flawed but whole, but not a man in her crew did.

Years later, the parents of one came to Iwo and climbed the slight steepness to Bertha, tearfully leaving behind what had been a dear possession of their star athlete son. The old trophy is warped and green, but the figure atop the pedestal is still there, a runner spreading his arms as he breaks the tape in a victory lunge...

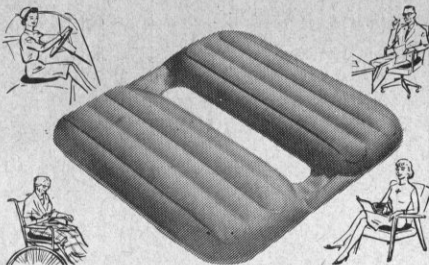
"A lot of sad things here," Davis again. "Really makes you think."

The bus groans a bit as it climbs the slow route to Suribachi, braking near the broken-crockery crater of a volcano that has been benign for decades. Once, in early 1945, Suribachi erupted from slope to summit, but that was because she was defiled by dark, offshore shapes that hurled thunder at her. Her ledges were pagan altars for hundreds of dead until five Marines and a Navy corpsman tied a U.S. Flag to a piece of pipe and flung it aloft, a moment seized in a classic photograph and recreated on heroic monuments.

Now, in a clasp of concrete, there is the exact-site American marker—a brass plaque with 48 stars—and next to that another mourning rock, dark marble with a tile inset of the Japanese islands. Beneath the litany of inscriptions, there are sake cups, stalks of incense, wilted flowers.

On Iwo Jima, there are too many dead to be forgotten.

But every Saturday, Japanese and Americans gather on a softball diamond and exchange bows before the weekly game.



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*National POW/MIA Recognition Day was observed by VFW on all levels of the organization. This account tells what happened in Chicago, site of the 85th VFW National Convention.*

# They Aren't Forgotten

**A**S THE REMAINS OF EIGHT U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO WERE KILLED in the Vietnam War were enroute from Hanoi to U.S. soil in Hawaii, some 1,500 persons gathered in Chicago to pay tribute to those who have been held as prisoners in our nation's conflicts and wars and to call attention to the fact that 2,489 Americans are still unaccounted for from the conflict in Vietnam.

Three days later President Ronald Reagan assured families of the missing men in Washington that the book is not closed on the POW/MIAs and repeated his pledge to continue this country's efforts to gain an accounting of the missing, the return of all the dead and release of any alive and still being held.

Those who attended the Chicago ceremonies on July 17 ranged from veterans of WWI to veterans of the nation's longest and most bitter conflict, Vietnam. The event was sponsored by the four Chicago area VA facilities and the Naval base at Great Lakes, the Illinois Air National Guard and Ft. Sheridan, with support from veterans' groups.

At a District 19 of the VFW hospitality suite at the hotel where the events were held, Dorothy Lippert, mother of MIA Tim Boden, showed a picture of her son standing in front of his Marine helicopter in Vietnam where he served as a sergeant. Her son was reported missing in 1967 after his helicopter was shot down.

Stella Zucowski, mother of Air Force Maj. Robert Zucowski, remembers well the day he was reported missing on

By Joan M. Maiman

Feb. 11, 1969, after he was shot down on a mission over Laos. Mrs. Zucowski is encouraged by the priority President Reagan has put on accounting for missing men.

Both of these MIA mothers joined the Illinois director of the National League of Families, Mary Carol Lemon, in Washington for ceremonies on POW Recognition Day, July 20.

The Wisconsin director of the National League of Families, Bill Arnold, also joined the families in the VFW suite. Arnold stressed the great impact the support of groups such as the VFW is having on his efforts to bring his son MIA Cdr. William Arnold home. Cdr. Arnold was shot down on his second tour in Vietnam in 1966 while on a mission over North Vietnam.

As the ceremonies opened, the Rev. John A. Jamnicky, a Roman Catholic chaplain in the Illinois Air National Guard, prayed for "compassion even for those who have treated our prisoners of war in an inhumane way." Jack Brickhouse, a member of the

Broadcasters Hall of Fame, introduced a head table which included Illinois Lt. Gov. George Ryan and Lt. Gen. Edward C. Peter, 4th Army commander at Ft. Sheridan. Peter said he fully supports all efforts to account for the Vietnam MIAs. (He met with MIA families from Illinois and neighboring states in the VFW hospitality suite prior to the start of the ceremonies.)

Some of the former Pows honored at the events included Patrick Quinn, a VFW member in Burbank, Ill., and Leo Staszak, of VFW Post 4684.

Quinn was a POW in Korea where he served with the 2nd Infantry Division. His captivity began in February, 1951, and ended when he was freed in the prisoner exchange with the North Koreans in 1953.

"I wish we had been liberated instead of exchanged as it would have meant that we had won the war," Quinn said. "He added he is totally behind efforts to bring home all the MIAs, including 'any who might still be alive in Korea.'"

Staszak served in Europe in WWII with the 85th Infantry Division and was a POW from October, 1944, to the spring of 1945 when he and other allied POWs were liberated at Moosburg, Germany, by Gen. George S. Patton in person.

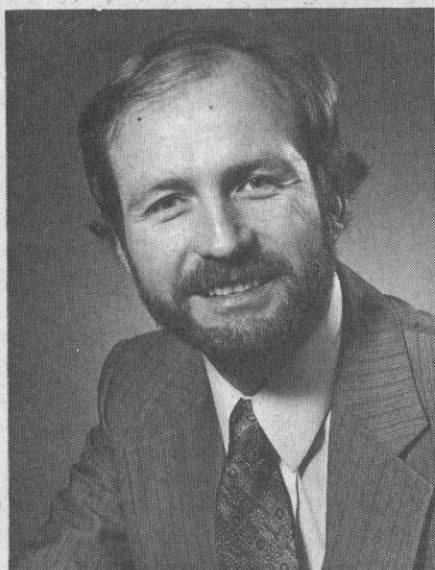
One of the speakers, Alexander MacArthur, also at Moosburg when it was liberated, recalled:

"Patton came in through the wire at the head of his tanks. He had outrun his infantry by about a day and he had three stars in a row on his hat with the fourth (he had just been promoted) pinned on top of the rest. I'll never forget how we knew that we were free right before Patton came in. We had seen the Nazi flag go down and we were waiting for the white flag to go up the pole. It never did. Instead, the Stars and Stripes went up. Through all the smoke, we could see our flag. The cheer that went up from the thousands of POWs was tremendous."

MacArthur came home on a hospital ship and "when we came into the harbor in Boston, the city went wild. Arthur Fiedler, of the Boston Pops, was right out there on a barge leading a musical tribute for us."

Noting that this was quite a different reception from what many who served in Vietnam received on their homecoming, MacArthur said, "Never again must we get into a war we do not intend to win. Never again





Dr. Dennis R. Wyant is the VA's new director of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Service. He is a disabled Vietnam Era veteran.

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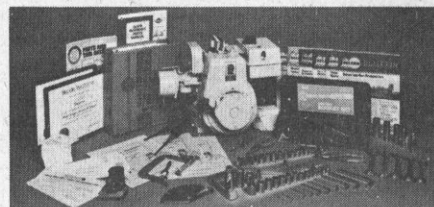
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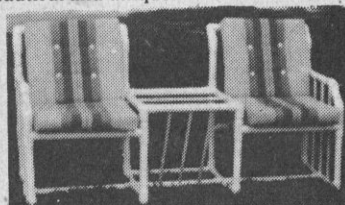
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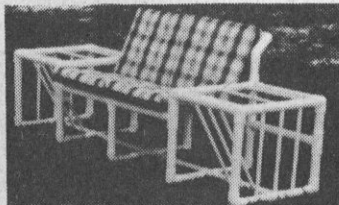


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must we leave our men behind as we did with the MIAs in Vietnam."

In a voice often choking with emotion, retired Army Maj. Gen. Michael Healy, former head of the Special Forces, spoke of his own experiences in the military where "I have been privileged to walk alongside the best."

Healy recalled a time in Korea when as a young lieutenant he had been crawling from trench to trench while enemy automatic fire showered debris on him:

"I looked up and saw a sergeant standing by a burning tank trying to find out where the firing was coming from. When I told him to get down, he gave me a lesson I have never forgotten. He told me, 'Lieutenant, you ain't never gonna be a general lying down in that ditch.'"

Of those who fled rather than serve and then returned under amnesty programs when the war was safely over, Healy pointed out that the MIAs will be welcomed home unconditionally: "They (MIAs) need no pardon as did those who fled."

Healy also had harsh words for those who engage in "free lance rescue efforts "to bring the MIAs home." He charged that such efforts get in the way of ongoing government efforts.

Noting that "one of my boys is coming home today," Healy pledged not to stop working for all of the men to come home. (He referred to Sgt. Dominic Sansone, killed in Vietnam on Dec. 10, 1964, when his plane hit a mountain near Da Nang in South Vietnam. Sansone's remains were returned on July 17 with those of seven other unidentified Americans.)

VA Deputy Administrator Everett Alvarez, the longest held POW of the Vietnam war, captured in August, 1964, and released eight and 1/2 years later, tortured and isolated, said, "I learned that freedom is hard won. In captivity, values such as patriotism and love for fellowman were what sustained us. Throughout long years of suffering, we hoped, we prayed that the people back home knew of our efforts. We were bound to them. Our hands were tied, but our souls were unchained."

When Rep. Henry Hyde (Ill.) a member of VFW Post 3579 called on all former POWs to stand and be recognized, the 556th Air Force Band played each service song and former POWs, who had been held in Bataan, in Stalag Luft III in Poland and in the "Hanoi Hilton," were greeted with cheers. All were bound by their

common heroism and their dedication to their nation under the most trying of conditions.

Josefa Torres, the famed Angel of Bataan, also was acknowledged. A Philippine Red Cross nurse, she was on the infamous Bataan Death March, aiding fallen POWs even after she had been threatened with execution by the Japanese if she helped them. Throughout her captivity, she smuggled medical supplies to the prisoners.

Sen. Charles Percy (Ill.) Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he has been calling on the Vietnamese to handle the MIA issue in a humanitarian manner and recalled that last June he chaired the first hearings the Foreign Relations Committee had ever held on the MIA issue. Percy said he could see the face of the Vietnamese representative who was attending.

"Apparently they heard when I told them we want our men back," Percy said. "Today eight of those men are coming home." Percy added that he has no personal knowledge of POWs being alive in Southeast Asia, but fully supports President Reagan's efforts based on the assumption that some Americans may be alive and being held against their will in Southeast Asia.

It would be cruel and unconscionable to give up our fullest efforts if even only one man is alive," he said.

Speaking for Illinois Department Commander Christopher Tsilis, Robert Jones said, "The VFW is working to see that next year with all our efforts and with public awareness raised through events such as today's all the missing men will be home and the wait of their families will be over at last."

VFW MIA activities on behalf of the POW/MIAs continued throughout the week with an interfaith service held at St. Linus Church in Suburban Oak Lawn, organized by Bernadette Kurtz, of VFW Auxiliary 5220, who has been active in the VFW MIA program for several years; a two-day vigil held by the Department in honor of the missing men on July 20 and 21, and a candle-lighting service by Glendale Heights Post 2377 for one of its members, Air Force Col. Charles Shelton, the last remaining POW still carried as on active duty.

As Dorothy Lippert said of her hopes for her MIA son Tim, "My chances for a miracle are very small. But there is always a chance that he is alive."

## Posts Honored

Post 10209 and its Ladies Auxiliary of Spring Hill, Fla., have been selected to receive the National Silver Medal of Excellence for exceptional achievement in community activities.

The award is based on Post 10209's sponsorship of the 13th annual Chicken Pluckin Contest held last fall which netted over \$14,000 for area charities and activities

In announcing the award Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson said, "The sheer magnitude of the project and the variety of proceed recipients made this very worthy entry and winner. It is an outstanding example of what our Post across the nation and overseas can and do accomplish."

Post 10256 and its Ladies Auxiliary, of Goose Creek, S.C., have been awarded the National Bronze Award of Merit for excellence in community activities.

The award was based on Post 10256's participation in a Special Olympic fundraising event last year which raised nearly \$1,400 and sent four youngsters to the International Games in Baton Rouge last summer.

Olson, commenting on the award said, "Youth Activities is one of the primary programs of the VFW and certainly our years of support for the Special Olympics is very dear to us. Post 10256 did a tremendous job in furthering this wonderful activity."

## Belated Purple Hearts Awarded 3 VFW Members

Three VFW members recently received Purple Hearts they earned during the two World Wars.

A retired Marine captain, Norman Henderson, of Shirley, Ark., was wounded in France in 1918 while in the Army, later enlisted in the Marine Corps and retired in 1947 with 31 years of service.

The medal was presented to him by Walter P. Rupert, chief of field services of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs.

A member of Post 2085, Ontario, Calif., Forest E. Doucette, 90, received his for wounds suffered in France in September, 1918. He was gassed and given up for dead.

Vincent Ricci, of Post 2812, Thornton, R.I., recently had his Purple Heart pinned on his jacket by Rep. Claudine Schneider (R.I.). He received the medal 38 years after he was wounded during WWII.



# Agent Orange Campaign

*continued from page 12*

medical expenses which totaled more than \$15,000. "Without the backing of the VFW we would not have gotten anywhere with this effort," says Sparrow.

Ironically, the 100% service connected disability for Reutershan was granted by the VA the day before he died. When he was told of the award, Reutershan, who was now semi-conscious, whispered to his mother, "It's too late, it's too late."

But Paul Reutershan's fight has been carried on. Today, Agent Orange is a household word. Legislation is pending before Congress which would give disability to vets with the kind of cancer which killed Paul Reutershan, soft tissue sarcoma. This legislation has been supported by the VFW.

Research continues on many levels for a resolution to the issue and the VA is now offering a free Agent Orange screening to Vietnam veterans which over 133,000 have taken to date. Much of this began at a VFW Post when some Vietnam veterans banded together and began the battle.

Sparrow, who was commander of Post 10013 at the time of Reutershan's death, has continued as an active member of the VFW.

Sparrow believes "Paul would be pleased with what a legacy he left. Today we are making progress and can again feel proud of our Vietnam service. I am sorry the answers and all the action on Agent Orange are coming just too late for him, but I believe he is still with us in spirit and this has carried all of us through some hard times."

Sparrow concludes it is ironic indeed that some Vietnam veterans equate the VFW with "indifference and late involvement in the Agent Orange issue."

"But," says Sparrow, "in reality it was the VFW where the national push on Agent Orange began, a push which now has worldwide implications."

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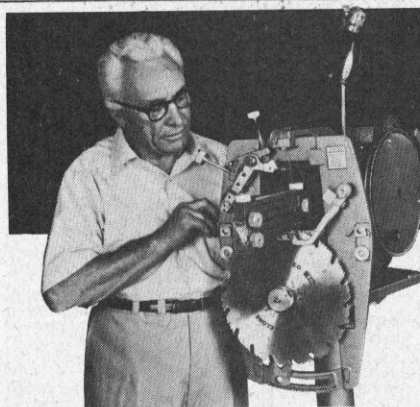
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Panelists in the annual VFW Community Activities Recordbook judging pause briefly in their perusal of entries to be photographed. They are Becky Jaramillo, a leader in Kansas City's Hispanic community; Jeff Coy, Kansas City Royals assistant public relations director, and Missouri State Rep. Bonnie Sue Cooper. The three expressed amazement at the scope and range of work done by the Posts in their communities.

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By this time, my wife had already forgotten her original doubts about mail order and was telling everyone she knew I was right all along. But best of all, I threw a party for those skeptical friends and neighbors at my new home — the one with the big pool in the backyard.

But this was only the beginning. I branched out and started five more mail order firms. I sold everything — from gifts to plant food. Before I knew it, I'd become a millionaire and a respected mail order authority.

Then I began publishing articles about mail order...next I wrote a monthly magazine column and finally...I created Mail Order Associates, Inc.

## Service Wins Awards For 10 Posts

Three Posts were awarded Silver Awards of Excellence and seven Posts received Bronze Awards of Merit for their work in community activities.

Honored also were several Posts' Auxiliaries for their role in assisting in the achievements.

Silver Awards went to Post 6896, Detroit; Post 5587, Holly, Mich.; and Post 2681, Marietta, Ga. Its Auxiliary shared in the award.

Post 6896 raised more than \$7,500 for a campaign to combat muscular dystrophy last year and has collected more than \$37,000 for this cause since 1975.

Post 5587 took part in Operation Can-Do, a food distribution in the Holly area begun in January, 1983, that aided 22,000 needy persons in its first year of existence.

Post 2681 sponsored a Christmas party for handicapped, retarded and underprivileged children and assisted other service organizations in Yuletide activities for needy youngsters.

Honored with Bronze Awards of Merit were Post 3946 and its Auxiliary, Rockford, Mich.; Post 3359 and its Auxiliary, Garland, Texas; Post 2636 and its Auxiliary, Iselin, N.J.; Post 2571, White River Junction, Vt.; Post 2692 and its Auxiliary, Mount Holly, N.J.; Post 5065 and its Auxiliary, Sheridan, Mich., and Post 4320 and its Auxiliary, Fredericktown, Mo.

Post 3946 sponsored Andrea Elliott Day that raised more than \$4,000 to aid the cancer-stricken mother of six children.

Post 3359, in cooperation with other organizations, conducted the sixth annual Veterans Day parade to be held in Garland.

Post 2636 held a Christmas party for more than 300 Iselin area senior citizens last December.

Post 2571 assisted in making improvements to the city's Frost Park, in cooperation with other organizations, and spent nearly \$3,000 for a new shelter and playground equipment.

Post 2692 sponsored a special day for Simon Whitfield, 5, who suffers from aplastic anemia. More than \$3,000 was raised for the youngster.

Post 5065 donated a large number of U.S. Flags and other patriotic material to Sheridan area schools late last year and early this year.

Post 4320 sponsored the finger-printing of more than 200 children in Madison County last fall.







# Service Means VFW Action

Breadth and scope of VFW community service on all levels of the organization can only be skimmed, for it is an all-encompassing, all-pervasive aspect of this 85-year-old organization.

This past year was no different from periods dating back to the VFW's founding in 1899, as members in all parts of the country rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help their hometowns, their fellow veterans or anyone else in need.

In Louisville, Ky., Post 5636 was honored by the Board of Aldermen with a certificate of merit to Commander Anthony Stich for use of the Post's facilities for Elderly Helping the Elderly for the past four years. The board designated Martin Hornek,

president of the organization, to make the presentation.

Dedication of the club room of Post 3935 in Port Hueneme, Calif., was turned into a birthday party for Frank Ball, a 39-year member and twice Post Commander in recognition of his services to the Post.

With the support of the VFW Department of Utah, the State Legislature has passed the Property Tax Abatement for Disabled Veterans. The Department has singled out State Rep. LaMont Richards and State Sen. Rex Black for special thanks for their efforts on behalf of the bill's passage, 59 to 7.

Post 2973, Suffern, N.Y., marked its 50th anniversary last March with a celebration highlighted by remarks by Mayor Savarese, County Council Commander Joe Nagle and Assemblyman Eugene Levy and many others.

Post 139, Paterson, N.J., honored

Barnett Memorial Hospital Center for its administration of a pilot program to diagnose and trace the effects of Agent Orange on veterans.

The Riverside National Cemetery Support Group, organized last May, is getting assistance from Post 2266, Hemet, Calif. The group was formed to provide hospitality to persons attending veterans' burial services at the cemetery.

Post 6564, Cadiz, Ohio, won the support of Halm's Modern Dairy in Steubenville and United Dairy in Martins Ferry to assist in the Buddy Poppy sale by using milk cartons bearing the Buddy Poppy emblem and an account of the sale's origin and purpose. Post Commander Harry E. Jackson expressed the gratitude of the Post, District, County Council, Department and National officers for this effort by the two dairies.

Recently a shelter in Deming Park in Terre Haute, Ind., was dedicated by Mayor Pete Chalos, who praised Post 972 for its role in building the shelter. The \$3,000 cost of materials was borne by the Post, while the work was done by park workmen. Two stone barbecue pits will be added at a cost of \$2,000.

An addition to its present building is under construction by Post 4647, North Highlands, Calif. Recently ground was broken by Commander Robert Byers and building committee members Leo Baustian, Doc Crowe, Don McFarlane and Frank Cleary.

Twenty-five former prisoners of war were sworn in as members of Post 471, Miami, Fla., following a meeting of a new organization, the Ex-Prisoners of War, at the Post. Commander Rick Laporte and the other Post officers were present and Past Commander Rick Laporte and the other Post officers were present and Past Department Commander Paul Yohman administered the oath of membership to each one.

Members of Post 3830 in Pahoa, Hawaii, only a little more than a year old, are anxious that VFW members on the mainland be made aware of its existence so they may visit the Post when they are in Hawaii.

*Post 7452 has donated more than \$16,000 worth of equipment to its community of Montgomery, Ill. Explaining the \$7,285 salt, cinder and sand spreader for winter use is Public Works Superintendent Bill Curry, right. With him are Commander John Mall and Mayor Stu Johnson.*







Post 3579, Park Ridge, Ill., second largest in the VFW, presents awards to Police Officer Robert W. Kuhn, Firefighter Thomas J. Czajka and Paramedic David J. Luehr. With them is then Post Commander Richard Bohanan, who made the presentations.

Active in service work, Post 687, Jackson, Miss., was recently commended for donating a U.S. Flag and Flagpole to the Brandon Volunteer Fire Department. The Post each month hosts a party at the Community Nursing Home, with Post members providing music, food and refreshments. The Post spends \$175 a month on such activities.

Alfred Rockwell, of Post 3462, St. Martinsville, La., has become well known for his visits to hospitalized veterans and trips around District 4, assisting Posts and other members whenever he is needed. Recently he spent time with a veteran at the Alexandria VA hospital who has been a patient there for 11 years.

The 430 volunteers from Minnesota's District 6 of the VFW have been singled out for praise by the Tri-County Community Action Program for their efforts in commodity distribution for the Department of Agriculture. VFW members and representatives of other groups put in 20,601 volunteer hours from March to December, 1983. Singled out for special mention were then District Commander Norby Barnes and his successor Larry Ziebarth.

In Jamestown, N.D., Post 760 put together ramps for the handicapped at the Post Office at a cost of \$533 after the government scrapped two plans for them, one costing \$100,000 and another costing \$8,000. Post

Commander Larry Kukla, a welding teacher, Bud Murphy, a Post member, and Fred Schuler, a janitor at the school where Kukla teaches undertook the job. It was completed and the ramps installed in 30-below weather. Money came from the Post's charity fund.

Because it has published more than 100 articles, pictures and notices about Post 6042, Mariposa, Calif., the Mariposa Gazette recently was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Post Commander Claude Spencer and Publicity Chairman Don Vetter. Accepting for the paper were Ruth Campbell, editor, and Delmar Campbell, publisher.

The \$1,000 Ervin L. Steele Scholarship, named for a Pennsylvania Past Department Commander, has gone to Alice M. Bratschi, a graduate of Conestoga High School in Berwyn, Pa., who will study nursing at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y.

A check for \$800 was presented recently to the Cleveland VA Medical Center by Auxiliary 1056 for radio pillow speakers which will enable patients to select radio programs without distr. other patients.

Commander Marvin Muegge, of Post 4588, Bossier City, La., recently presented a \$1,000 check to Director Donald A. Pabst, of the Shreveport, La., VA Medical Center, and Chief of the Chaplain Service Lowell C. Todd for a one-day seminar featuring a leading health care professional.

Mayor Ivan Dodd, of Garner, Iowa, received \$1,000 from Post 5515 for a Jaws of Life rescue tool for use by the Garner Fire Department. Dodd, a Post life member, was presented the \$1,000 by Post Commander Mike Kinsella and Auxiliary President Sue Schulke.

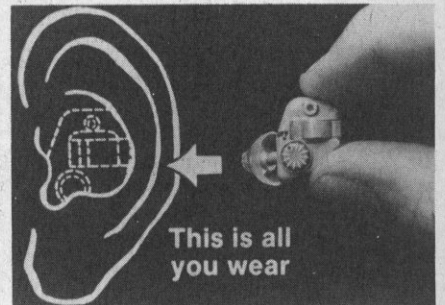
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## Reunions

Reunion announcements run through the back of the magazine in consecutive order.

### AIR FORCE

(Including Army air units prior to 1947)

### September

**345th Bomb. Grp.**—5-9—Ken McClure, 2770 E Main St., Columbus, OH 43209

**1034th Sig. Co. Svc. Grp., 6th Air Svc. Grp.**—28-30, Williamsburg, Va.—Jermone Reynolds, 9003 Peabody St., Manassas, VA 22110.

**U.S.A.F. Security Service and Electronic Security Command**—28-29, San Antonio—USAFSS-ESC Alumni Assn., 6960 ESW/CC, San Antonio, TX 78243.

### October

**8th AF**—3-7, Los Angeles—8th AF Reunion, POB 3556, Hollywood, FL 33083.

**8th Photo Recon. Sqdn. (WW II)**—11-15, San Antonio—D.M. Barney, Jr., RR 3 Box 324, Broomfield, CO 80020.

**19th Trp. Carrier Sqdn.**—3, Las Vegas—Theron Johnson, 5413 Lakewood Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712.

**30th (H) Bomb. Grp. Assn.**—14, Riverside, Calif.—George Jacka, 1295 E 34th St., San Bernardino, CA 92404.

**48th Ftr. Sqdn. TE P-38 (WW II)**—26-28, Lafayette, La.—Frank Resweber, 110 Acadian Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503.

**92d Bomb. Grp. (WW II)**—3-7, Shreveport, La.—Cahries Kelly, 6304 Pawnee Trail, Shreveport, LA 71107.

**95th Bomb. Grp. (H) (England, WW II)**—New Orleans—Art Frankel, 8246 SW 103d Ave., Miami (Kendall), FL 33173.

**155 Liaison Sqdn., 2d Air Commando Grp.**—18-20, Smoke-town, Pa.—Larry Holzapfel, 447 Gibbs Pond Rd., Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779.

**325th Ftr. Grp. (WW II)**—11-14, Dallas—Dan Penrod, 69 Keswick Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15202.

**391st Bomb. Grp. Assn. (WW II)**—11-14, Myrtle Beach, S.C.—Bob Cox, 600 Seaford Ave., Massapequa, NY 11758.

**466th Bomb. Grp.**—3-7, Los Angeles—John Woolnough, 7752 Harbour Blvd., Miramar, FL 33023.

**493d BG**—3-7, Los Angeles—Paul Sink, 4015 W 137th St., #114, Hawthorne, CA 90250.

**867th Guard Sqdn. (Lowry Field, Colo., WW II)**—Orlando—Thomas Wilson, 1251 Morgana Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32211.

**Engineering Avn. Cadet Class 41-4 (Chanute Field)**—5-8, Washington, D.C.—Theodore Brundage, 10707 Angellohill Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030.

### June 1985

**89th Svc. Sqdn., 305th Svc. Grp. (India, 1942-45)**—Carlisle, Pa.—Louis Port, RD 2 Box 355, Bernville, PA 19506.

## ALL BRANCHES

### September

**Indiana Vietnam Veterans**—28-30, Kokomo, Ind.—Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization, POB 6104, Kokomo, IN 46902.

### October

**Ranch Hand-Vietnam**—5-7, San Antonio—Ralph Dresser, Rt. 4 Box 2238, Lake Hills, TX 78063.

## ARMY

### September

**9th Armcd. Div., 89th Cav. Sqdn.**—12-15, Branson, Mo.—Henny Turner, RR 2 Box 179, Stockton, MO 65785.

**17th Sig. Oprns. Bn.**—1-3, Pittsburgh—Ed Hoffmeister, 710 Crown Ave., Scranton, PA 18505.

**35th Div., 134th Inf., AT Co.**—14, Topeka, Kans.—Harold Hansen, Coleridge, NE 68727.

**45th Inf. Div., 160th FA Bn.**—21-23, Checotah, Okla.—Joseph Cherry, 7445 E 29th St., Tulsa, OK 74129.

**87th Inf. Div. (WW I & WW II)**—26-30, Orlando—Gladwin Pascuzzo, 2374 N Dundee Ct., Highland, MI 48301.

**176th Gen Hosp. (WW II)**—22-23, New York City—William Kraybill, 602 Camelot Dr., Bel Air, MD 21014.

**252d FA Bn.**—22, Manitowoc, Wis.—Harold Strauss, 1319 S 18th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220.

**3031 OBER, 625th Ord. Bn. (WW II)**—Bernard McCann, 445 West County Rd., St. Paul, MN 55112.

**3341st QM Trkg. Co. (WW II)**—26-29, Ft. Payne, Ala.—Melba Culpepper, 136 N Prairie St., Union Springs, AL 36089.

### October

**1st Spec. Svc. Force Assn.**—18-20, Ft. Bragg, N.C.—1st Spec. Svc. Force Assn., 11815 Quarter Horse Ct., Oakton, VA 22124.

**16th Gen. Hosp. (ETO, WW II)**—12-14, Mayfield Village, Ohio—George Zidlicky, 16004 Rowena Ave., Maple Heights, OH 44137.

**62d AA, Btry. C (WW II)**—6, Albany, N.Y.—E.F. Snyder, 1 Cooper, Greenwich, NY 12834.

**102d & 152d Engr. Combat Bns. (WW II)**—8-10, Hot Springs, Ark.—Norman Sakkestad, 791 Hyland Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10305.

**108th Evac. Hosp.**—6, Abingdon, Ill.—Gabe Pica, POB 272, 100 W Sanitary St., Abingdon, IL 61410.

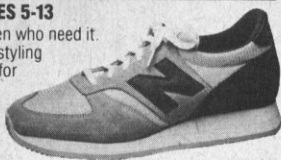


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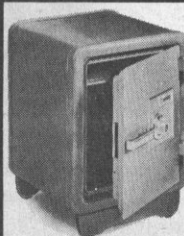
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131st QM Truck Co.—6, York, Pa.—Charles Wagner, 221 N High St., Manchester, PA 17345.

258th FA Rgt. & 991st FA Bn. (WW II)—13, Bronx, N.Y.—Louis A. Testa, 4326 E Tremont Ave., Bronx, NY 10465.

511th Engr. LP Co. (WW II)—13, Wayne, N.J.—Nick Rosanio, POB 412, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889.

609th OBAM Bn.—4-7—Wilbur Diehl, 286A Camelia Dr., Leesburg, FL 32788.

Black WAAC/WAC—3-7, Atlanta—Lucy Orr Young, 354 Hightower Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30318.

Ranger Infantry Cos. (Abn.) of the Korean War—3-7, Ft. Benning, Ga.—Robert Black, 355 E Baltimore St., Carlisle, PA 17013.

## November

4th Inf. Div. (Ohio-W.Va.)—1-4, Cleveland—Elmer Klaus, 2397 Bennett Rd., Madison, OH 44057.

## December

1st Ord. Co. (WW II & Korea)—8-9, Carlsbad, Calif.—Dale Schreiber, 1457 Crest Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.

29th Div. (Fla. residents)—29, Lakeland, Fla.—George Smith, 8053 Leon St., Philadelphia, PA 19136.

188th FA Assn., Svc. Btry. (WW II)—Las Vegas—Mike Ibach, 2800 S Lamb Blvd., Space 188, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

## May

121st Inf. Rgt. Assn.—16-18, Macon, Ga.—J.L. Brake, 1069 Mimosa Dr., Macon, GA 31204.

173d Abn. Bde.—Washington, D.C.—Kenneth Smith, 6400 Whippany Way, Burke, VA 22015.

## NAVY

## September

21st NCB—11-13, Tahoe, Calif.—L.J. Fox, 205 Sierra Vista St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

47th NCB—14-15, Dallas—James Cole, 4308 Briar Cliff, Wichita Falls, TX 76309.

82d NCB—20-22, St. Louis—Gerald Gettemeyer, 1026 St. Peters-Howell Rd., St. Peters, MO 63376.

93d NCB—20-21, Michigan City, Ind.—Raymond Pagel, 3115 N Wozniak Rd., Michigan City, IN 46360.

CMBU 561—Orlando—H.M. Jackson, 2208 E Hillcrest, Orlando, FL 32803.

USS Salt Lake City (CA25) Assn. (1929-47)—2-7, San Diego—Syd Foster, 4433 Albatross Way, Oceanside, CA 92056.

## October

14th NCB (WW II)—12-14, Hot Springs, Ark.—William Fulton, 1000-13 Seminole Trail, Indian Harbor, Granbury, TX 76048.

USS Coates (DE685)—5-7, Virginia Beach, Va.—William Knipple, 182 Church Rd., Sherman, CT 06784.

USS Guest (DD472)—5-7, Las Vegas—Arthur Diaz, 4819 W 20th Terr., Topeka, KS 66604.

USS Hambleton (DD455/DMS20)—26-28, Cape Cod, Mass.—John Romolo, 34 Hastings St., West Roxbury, MA 02132.

USS John M. Bermingham—5-8, Washington, D.C.—Ken Truelsen, 2124 Walter Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062.

USS Terror (CM5)—17-21, Tulsa—Fred Bartlett, 5220 S 70th E Pl., Tulsa, OK 74145.

USS Vestal (AR4)—4-6—Nick Carter, 114 Ray Ave. R2, Old Hickory, TN 37138.

V-5/V-12 (Franklin & Marshall College)—19-21, Lancaster, Pa.—Cathleen Voelker, Assoc. Dir., Alumni Progs., Franklin & Marshall College, POB 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604.

## November

USS Abner Read (DD526)—1-4, Phoenix—Harry Huyck, 7136 W Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85035.

## December

Area Seabees—8, Sunbury, Pa.—Harry Klein, 216 Market St., Sunbury, PA 17801.

## April 1985

USS Hogan—Charleston, S.C.—Frank Reynolds, 3207 Bagnal Dr., Columbia, SC 29204.

## June 1985

USS Barnett (Barney Maru)—Houston—Rex Baker, Jr., 2200 Willowick, 6E, Houston, TX 77027.

USS Galveston (CLG3)—Philadelphia—Morris Butcher, 4754 Bill Knight Ave., Millington, TN 38053.

## September 1985

Carrier Air Grp. 14, VF-VT-VB-14s (WW II)—Denver—Bill Miller, 1405 Linher Dr., Carpinteria, CA 93013.

USS Charles F. Hughes (DD428)—Baltimore—Merrill Lee, 6204 Mossway, Baltimore, MD 21212.

USS Mission Bay (CVE59)—26-29, San Francisco—P.E. McLeary, 1732 Ulloa St., San Francisco, CA 94116.



## Plastic Money

We've always had two classes of people—the haves and have nots. Now a third class has emerged—the haves who have not yet paid for it.

*Quote*

## Itty Bitty Fishy

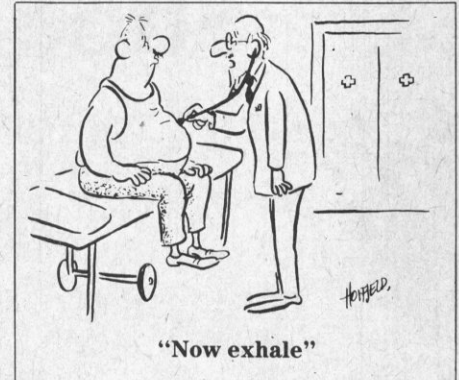
A baby sardine was swimming when he saw a submarine. Terrified, he was consoled by his mother who said, "Don't worry, dear, it's just a can of people."

*Shelby Friedman in Quote*

## Dead Letter Office

Do you get tired of receiving junk mail? Well, a fellow named George Smith did. So, to get his name off the mailing lists, he returned all such mail, marking "Deceased" on the envelope. Then he started receiving mail addressed to "The Estate of George Smith."

*Quote*



## Oedipus Tricked

Jimmy, 16 and handsome, fancied himself the all-time great lover. One night, the telephone rang. In his deepest, sexiest voice, he murmured, "Talk to me, baby." Then he blushed a bright red. "Oh, hi, Mom," he said weakly.

*Shelby Friedman in Quote*



## A Tiff Is A Tiff Is A Tiff

When Ernest Hemingway, as a young man, was launching his career in Paris, Gertrude Stein befriended him. Then they fell out and parted with hard feelings. Twenty years later, Hemingway decided time had come to patch up old differences and said, "I'm old and rich now. Let's make up." Stein, in no mood for a reconciliation, said, "I'm neither old nor rich. Let's not."

*Quote*



Charcoal  
Grey

# LIFETIME SLACKS

WITH A LIFETIME GUARANTEE\*

**2** Pair for **21<sup>95</sup>** **SAVE A FORTUNE!**

**LIFETIME LOOKS!** Gentlemen, your favorite comfort cut Executive Slacks, the style you've been wearing all along, are front-page fashion news, now headlined across America as the "Latest Design Look" at \$35, \$55, even \$75 per pair! So Haband, the mail order people from Paterson, N.J., shout "CASH IN NOW ON OUR EXTRAORDINARY SAVINGS!! We sell beautifully made slacks in the latest fashion cut and colors at 2 pairs for \$21.95. That's only \$10.97 1/2 per pair, and they'll never go out of style!"

**LIFETIME QUALITY!** Haband sells 100,000 pairs of pants per week to busy Americans all over the U.S.A. We stress made-in-U.S.A. quality, extra long wear, and good full cut in waist, seat, knees, crotch & thighs. Plus, complete e-a-s-y comfort Two-Way S-T-R-E-T-C-H throughout. They'll fit you fine and do you proud the rest of your life!

Now get it all at our  
**Once-in-a-Lifetime LOW PRICE!**

Think about how a good supply of better looking, better fitting slacks could improve your appearance. And let Haband help. We will be proud to send you any 2 pair direct to your door in your exact size, your favorite colors. See how nice you look. Show your wife and family before you decide. **BUT DON'T MISS OUT!**

Just check your choice on the **NO-RISK ORDER FORM**. We promise fast, reliable service & the buy of a lifetime!

**Superb Quality!**

- Talon® zipper
- Hookflex® closure
- BanRol® No-Roll Waistband
- Fortrel® 100% Polyester
- No Hole Lifetime Pockets
- 100% NO-IRON Automatic Wash & Wear

**6**  
Great  
Colors  
to  
Choose!

Black

Cognac

Navy

Loden

Brown

**AND  
LOOK!**

**Lifetime  
Guarantee!**

**2** Pairs of  
LIFETIME  
SLACKS **21<sup>95</sup>**  
3 for 32.50  
4 for 43.25  
5 for 53.50

**HABAND** 265 North 9th Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07530

**YES! Rush me.....** pairs of these Lifetime Slacks for which I enclose \$.....and \$1.75 postage. \*Please add \$1.50 per pair for sizes 46-54.

Or Charge: ☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard

Acct.#.....  
Exp.Date:.....  
☐ Check here & add \$7.95 for Reversible Leather Belt  
Color: BLACK/BROWN  
Size: (70S) Even sizes, 30 to 54\*  
A (\*46 to 54 please add \$1)

Q	Color	HOW MANY?	WHAT WAIST?	WHAT INSEAM?
	CHARCOAL GREY			
B	NAVY			
C	BROWN			
D	LODEN			
R	COGNAC			
E	BLACK			

**\* LIFETIME GUARANTEE:**

I understand that if I don't like the slacks, I can return them at any time for a full refund of every penny I paid you!

77L-06K

Name.....

Street.....Apt.#.....

City/State.....Zip.....



**HABAND**

265 N. 9th St., Paterson, NJ 07530